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**URBAN DISTRICT  
OF MELTHAM**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

**For the Year 1954**

BY

**ERIC WARD**

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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1955

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# Meltham Urban District

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## LIST OF COUNCILLORS for the year 1954/55

### Chairman:

E. V. QUARMBY, Esq., J.P.

### Vice-Chairman:

\*J. W. HOLLINGWORTH, Esq.

R. C. ASHTON, Esq.

H. BASTOW, Esq.

J. DIBB, Esq.

E. GREENHALGH, Esq.

H. HIRST, Esq.

M. H. KAYE, Esq.

S. OLDHAM, Esq.

F. PHILLIPS, Esq.

H. STEAD, Esq.

E. TAYLOR, Esq.

\*Chairman of the Public Health Committee  
The Public Health Committee is composed of all the members of the  
Council

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

### Medical Officer of Health:

ERIC WARD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

H. C. MILLIGAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Resigned 5-7-54)

K. M. C. HAIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., C.P.H.

(Appointed 17-1-55)

### Sanitary Inspector:

E. WALLER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(Died 27-12-54)



Divisional Health Office,  
Woodville,  
Scar Lane,  
GOLCAR,  
Nr. Huddersfield.

October, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Meltham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my 8th Annual Report on the Health of the Meltham Urban District and the work of the Public Health Department during 1954.

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. P. Metcalfe for the compilation of Sections III, IV and V, which deal with the Sanitary Circumstances of the area, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food. These Sections form the Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the year and as the whole period to which it relates was prior to the date on which Mr. Metcalfe took up his duties at Meltham considerable work has been involved in collecting together various particulars. I wish to express my appreciation of his work in this connection.

As in previous years particulars are given in Section VII of the Report of the Services provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946 by the West Riding County Council as the Local Health Authority.

The population of the District, according to the Registrar-General, has increased by 63 during the year but the adjusted Birth Rate has fallen by 2.0 per 1,000 population and the adjusted Death Rate has increased by 2.2

Apart from an increase in the number of cases of mild Scarlet Fever and Sonne Dysentery there was no unusual instance of infectious or other diseases in the district for the 8th year in succession. No confirmed cases of Diphtheria occurred in the area.

There has been increased activity regarding housing. During the year 30 new houses have been erected and 5 unfit houses made subject to temporary closing Orders. Improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949 were approved by the Council in 5 cases.

A few days before the end of the year the Council lost, by death, the services of Mr. E. Waller who had been Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor since 1945. Mr. Waller had a serious illness some 3 years ago and never recovered his full vigour. His sudden death, however, came as a shock and I should like to pay tribute to the good work he performed during his period of office.

In closing I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and all Members of the Council for their continued support and to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation given by the Clerk and other Officials of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ERIC WARD,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

### 1. General Statistics

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	5,906
Enumerated Population (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	5,051
Enumerated Population (Census, 1951)	...	...	...	...	5,107
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1953)	...	...	...	...	5,097
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1954)	...	...	...	...	5,160
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1954	...	...	...	...	1,900
Rateable Value, 31st March, 1955)	...	...	...	...	£36,906
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (March, 1955)	...	...	...	...	£149

### 2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

Live Births:				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	31	29	60
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	2	5
Total	...	...	...	34	31	65

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population: 12.60  
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population: 13.23

Still Births:				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	2	—	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	2
Total	...	...	...	3	1	4

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 57.97  
Deaths (males 32, females 41) ... 73  
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 14.15  
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 13.02  
Deaths from Puerperal causes ... Nil

#### Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	1	—	1

#### Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... 15.38  
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 16.66  
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... Nil

#### Death Rate per 1,000 population from:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... Nil  
All forms of Tuberculosis ... 0.19  
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Pulmonary Tuberculosis) 1.55  
Cancer ... 3.29  
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis but including Syphilis and other V.D.) ... Nil  
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... Nil  
Deaths from Diarrhoea (children under 2 years of age) Nil  
Death Rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis of children under 2 years of age per 1,000 births ... Nil



## **Section 1.**

# **STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT**

The Urban District is situated on high ground 5 miles to the south-west of Huddersfield, the principal centre of population being the township of Meltham, whilst other hamlets in the district are Meltham Mills, Helme and Wilshaw.

High moorland rising to a height of over 1,500 feet forms the western and southern parts of the District. The principal industries now carried on in the area are engineering, including tractor building, woollen textiles, silk dressing, brick and tile making, and mixed farming.

## **VITAL STATISTICS**

### **Population**

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-1954 was 5,160 as compared with 5,097 at mid-1953. Allowing for the natural decrease of 8 deaths over births this shows that there has been an influx of some 71 people from other areas.

### **Comparability Factors**

Area comparability factors in respect of Births and Deaths have been supplied by the Registrar-General and for your district these are 1.05 and 0.92 respectively. These are the factors by which the crude birth and death rates should be multiplied in order to make them truly comparable with the rates for other areas.

The need for such adjustment is occasioned by the differences in the constitution of area populations as regards the proportions of their sex and age group components. The fact that your district has a comparability factor of 0.92 for deaths shows that the population contains a higher proportion of elderly people than the average area, which would in all probability result in a high crude death rate despite the general health conditions of the population being good. The comparability factor of 1.05 for Births shows that the proportion of women in the maternal age groups is less than in the average area.

### **Births**

After adjustment for inward and outward transferable births, a net total of 65 live births (34 male, 31 female) was registered in the District during the year, a decrease of 12 compared with the previous year.



The ADJUSTED BIRTH RATE is 13.23 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 15.26 for the previous year, 15.2 for England and Wales, 15.3 for the West Riding Administrative County, and 14.8 for the Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts.

The illegitimate live births numbered 5, or 7.69% of the total live births as compared with 1 in the previous year.

**Stillbirths**

After adjustment for transfers, 4 stillbirths were registered during the year, as compared with none in 1953. This figure gives a rate of 57.97 per 1,000 live and stillbirths and 0.78 per 1,000 of the population.

**Deaths**

After correction for inward and outward transferable deaths, the net total deaths registered in, and assigned to the District was 73 (32 male, 41 female), an increase of 11 as compared with the year 1953.

The ADJUSTED DEATH RATE is 13.02 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 10.82 for the previous year.

The following were the principal causes of death in order of frequency.

(i)	Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System ...	22
(ii)	Malignant Neoplasms ... ..	17
(iii)	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..	11
(iv)	Diseases of the Respiratory System (excluding Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..	8

These 4 causes accounted for 79.45% of the total deaths. Particulars of the various causes of death and the age and sex distribution are given in the table overleaf.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75
All Causes ... ..	M	32	1	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	4	13	10
	F	41	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	5	2	12	18
1 Tuberculosis, respira-	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
tory ... ..	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Tuberculosis, other ...	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Syphilitic disease ...	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Diphtheria ... ..	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Whooping Cough ...	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Meningococcal infec-	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
tions ... ..	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 Acute poliomyelitis ...	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 Measles ... ..	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9 Other infective and	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
parasitic diseases ...	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 Malignant neoplasm,	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
stomach ... ..	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
11 Malignant neoplasm,	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
lung, bronchus ...	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 Malignant neoplasm,	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
breast ... ..	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
13 Malignant neoplasm,	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
uterus ... ..	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
14 Other malignant and	M	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1
lymphatic neoplasms ...	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16 Diabetes ... ..	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 Vascular lesions of ner-	M	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	1
vous system ... ..	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
18 Coronary disease,	M	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
angina ... ..	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19 Hypertension with heart	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
disease ... ..	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
20 Other heart disease ...	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	F	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	9
21 Other circulatory dis-	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
ease ... ..	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
22 Influenza ... ..	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23 Pneumonia ... ..	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24 Bronchitis ... ..	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
	F	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
25 Other diseases of respir-	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
atory system ... ..	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26 Ulcer of stomach and	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
duodenum ... ..	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27 Gastritis, enteritis, and	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
diarrhoea ... ..	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30 Pregnancy, childbirth,	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
abortion ... ..	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31 Congenital malforma-	M	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
tions ... ..	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32 Other defined and ill-	M	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
defined diseases ...	F	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	2
33 Motor vehicle accidents	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34 All other accidents ...	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 Suicide ... ..	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
36 Homicide and operations	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
of war ... ..	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

## Maternal Deaths and Mortality

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other maternal causes.

## Infant Mortality

After correction for transferable deaths, there was one death (male) under 1 year of age, a decrease of 2 compared with the previous year.

The INFANT MORTALITY RATE is 15.38 per 1,000 live births as compared with 38.96 for the previous year. The death rate amongst legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births is 16.66 as compared with 39.47 for the year 1953.

There were no deaths of illegitimate children under 1 year of age.

## Comparative Statistics

	Meltham Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (provisional figures) 15.2 —
BIRTH RATE Per 1,000 estimated population ... (crude) do. (adjusted)	12.60 13.23	14.7 14.8	15.1 15.3	15.2 —
DEATH RATES All per 1,000 estimated population				
All Causes (Crude) ...	14.15	12.7	11.9	11.3
All Causes (Adjusted) ...	13.02	12.8	12.5	—
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (excl. T.B.) ...	—	0.07	0.08	*
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	—	0.18	0.16	0.16
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.19	0.01	0.02	0.02
Respiratory Diseases (ex- cluding Tuberculosis of respiratory system) ...	1.55	1.27	1.22	*
Cancer ... ..	3.29	2.12	2.01	2.04
Heart and Circulatory Diseases ... ..	4.26	4.88	4.54	*
INFANT MORTALITY ...	15.38	28.3	28.0	25.5
DIARRHOEA Deaths of infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births ... ..	Nil	*	*	*
MATERNAL MORTALITY				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	Nil	*	*	*
Other Causes ... ..	Nil	*	*	*
Total ... ..	Nil	0.80	0.89	0.69

\* Figures not available.



## **Section II.**

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

#### **Staff**

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer of the Council but is engaged whole-time on public health work, being also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Colne Valley, Denby Dale, Holmfirth, Kirkburton and Saddleworth, and Divisional Medical Officer for Division 20 of the West Riding, which is composed of the 6 Urban Districts of which he is Medical Officer of Health.

By arrangement with the County Council one of the Senior Assistant County Medical Officers holds the appointment of Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

One Sanitary Inspector is employed, who was also Plans Officer and officer in charge of the Sewage Works and refuse collection until the 4th October, 1954 when these duties were taken over by the newly appointed Engineer and Surveyor. Clerical assistance is provided by the Clerk's Department.

#### **Laboratory Facilities**

All the bacteriological laboratory work required to be undertaken by the Health Department and by General Practitioners is carried out at the Wakefield Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service, whilst samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the laboratories of Messrs. Richardson and Jaffe, Public Analysts, Bradford.

#### **Ambulance Facilities**

##### **(a) Cases of Infectious Diseases.**

The ambulance of the Isolation Hospital to which the patient is admitted is used for the removal of the patient.

##### **(b) Cases of Sickness and Accident**

An Ambulance Service is operated by the West Riding County Council, the Meltham Urban District being in Ambulance Area No. 17. The depot for the area is situated at Banney Royd, Halifax Road, Huddersfield (Tel. No. Huddersfield 1255/6).

#### **Professional Nursing in the Home**

**General.** Home nursing is undertaken by a nurse who is employed by the West Riding County Council and resident in Meltham.

**Midwifery.** The above nurse is a practising midwife.

Further details of the nursing services provided in the area will be found in Section VII of this report.

## **Treatment Centres, Clinics, and Hospitals**

### **Infant Welfare Centres**

Held weekly on Tuesday afternoon.

### **Ante-Natal Clinics**

Held monthly on the first Thursday afternoon in the month.

### **School Clinics**

Held weekly on Tuesday morning.

All these clinics are held in the Baptist School, Meltham.

### **Chest Clinic**

Held daily at 1 Peel Street, Huddersfield, but a prior appointment is necessary.

### **Venereal Diseases Clinics**

Held at York Place, New North Road, Huddersfield; Clayton Hospital, Wakefield; and the General Infirmary, Dewsbury.

### **Hospitals**

- (a) **Infectious Diseases:** Under the National Health Service Act, Meltham is placed in the Leeds Regional Hospital Area, and cases of Infectious Diseases, other than Smallpox, are admitted to the Mill Hill Isolation Hospital, Huddersfield.

Accommodation for cases of Smallpox is provided by the Regional Board at the Oakwell Smallpox Hospital, Birstall.

(b) **General Hospitals**

Huddersfield Royal Infirmary

Holme Valley Memorial Hospital.

Deanhouse Hospital, Thongsbridge, Holmfirth.

- (c) **Maternity:** Arrangements are made for the admission of patients to the Princess Royal Maternity Home, Huddersfield and various General Hospitals.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The principal sources of piped water are the undertakings of the Urban District Council and the Huddersfield Corporation.

The Council's Water Supply is drawn from Fearn Nook Spring, Orleans Spring and Royd Drift. The Scope Spring Supply has been transferred to Huddersfield Corporation and, under the provisions of the Huddersfield Corporation Water Act, 1869, the Council now receive from Huddersfield Corporation 80,000 gallons per day without payment.

During the year 6 samples of water were submitted for examination for plumbo-solvency, and were reported to be satisfactory. Regular sampling for bacteriological examination has continued, details of which are given in the table below:—

Presumptive B. Coli in 100 ml.

Date 1954	Fearn Nook Supply	Scope Supply	Orleans Spring	Storage Res. (Uncov- ered) Outlet Weir	Pipe Line Storage Res. to Filter House	Filter House Before Treat- ment	Filter House after Treat- ment	Royd Drift Tank (Cov- ered)	Pipe Line Royd Tank to Filter House	Treated Water from Con- sumers' Taps
Jan.	None	None	None	2	None	None	None	None	None	None
Feb.	—	—	—	—	3	None	None	—	None	None
Mar.	None	None	1	17	None	13	None	None	None	None
April	25	13	17	3	None	1	2	None	None	None
May	None	—	Dry	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
June	None	—	3	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
July	None	—	3	1	1	None	None	None	None	None
Aug.	160	—	160	180 +	180 +	2	None	10	None	None
Sept.	180 +	—	7	5	7	1	None	None	None	None
Oct.	35	—	8	None	1	None	None	None	None	None
Nov.	160	—	180 +	180 +	180 +	180 +	16	1	1	None
Dec.	3	—	1	90	90	35	None	None	None	None



During the year arrangements were made to bring the Royd Bore Hole into operation again. The Bore Hole has been lined with steel tubing and a submersible electric pump is to be installed to supply a further 20,000 gallons per day. This additional supply should be available in late 1955.

Arrangements are in hand for renewing the pipe line from the storage reservoirs to the Filter House. A new Break-Pressure Tank will be constructed and the service reservoir (Colders Tank) will be re-lined and covered. This scheme should be completed by October, 1955 and will provide a constant head of raw water to the Filter House, thus ensuring more efficient treatment. The lining and covering of Colders Tank will reduce the risk of pollution after treatment.

Five samples of the Council's water supply were submitted for Chemical Analysis and reported as satisfactory.

There were no extensions to the Council's water mains during the year.

**Private Water Supplies**

Of the 1,900 dwellinghouses in the district 290 are not connected to the public supply. Private water supplies vary from springs supplying individual properties to private communal supplies piped to small groups of houses. In most cases the private water supplies receive no treatment whatsoever. They are subject to intermittent pollution and are almost invariably plumbo-solvent. Samples giving pH values in the region of 4.5 are not uncommon.

**Drainage and Sewerage**

The Council's Sewage works continue to produce a reasonably good effluent, despite the high dry weather flow. The scheme for sewer-ing the hamlets of Helme and Wilshaw has not progressed as quickly as the Council would wish, and the Council's Consulting Engineers are being pressed to expedite completion of their plans.

**Rivers and Streams**

Sewage pollution of water courses is still taking place in the district, but it is anticipated that this will be remedied to a very large extent when the Helme and Wilshaw sewerage schemes come into operation.

**Closet Accommodation**

The closet accommodation in the district consists of:—

Privies	...	...	...	...	112
Tub-closets	...	...	...	...	143
Water closets	...	...	...	...	1402

There is some slight improvement in that 8 privies and 6 tub closets have been converted to the water carriage system during the year. The Council continue to make a grant of £8 plus the provision of a free dustbin to owners voluntarily carrying out conversions, yet the response to this incentive is again disappointing. No great improvement can be expected until the sewerage schemes are completed.

## Public Cleansing

The removal of house refuse and tub closet contents is carried out weekly, privy contents are emptied approximately once per quarter, and cesspools emptied as necessary. This work is carried out under private contract, with the Council providing one workman for control at the tip. Waste paper salvage, collected at the same time as the refuse, is baled at the Council's Depot. The income from salvage throughout the year amounted to £286, whilst the cost of the cleansing service was £2,951.

## Shops Acts

During the year 9 shops were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

## Smoke Abatement

During the year 5 observations of industrial chimneys were made. In no instance was the emission of black smoke in excess of the period allowed in the bye-law.

## Camping Sites

There are no camping sites in the district.

## Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no public swimming baths in the area.

## The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

A total of 219 inspections for rats and mice were made during the year ending 31st March, 1955. Details are given below in an extract from the report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## Statistical Return

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority Owned	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	16	1901	49	485	2451
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 12 months ended 31st March, 1955 as a result of:					
(a) Notification	(a) 0	9	0	3	12
(b) Survey	(b) 5	0	12	32	49
(c) Otherwise	(c) 2	137	5	14	158
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats ... ..	Major 0	0	0	0	0
	Minor 1	3	0	3	7
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested with mice ... ..	Major 0	0	0	0	0
	Minor 0	3	0	3	6
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	1	3	0	3	7



## Eradication of Bed Bugs

No houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

### Factories Act, 1937

The following is an extract from a separate report submitted to the Director of Statistics of the Ministry of Labour on Form 572 (Revised.)

#### 1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health.

Premises	No. on Register	Insp'tions	Written Notices	Owners Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	32	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	24	13	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	4	1	—	—
Total	60	21	—	—

#### 2. Cases in which Defects were Found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness:	1	1	—	—
Sanitary conveniences				
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	1	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—

#### 3. Outworkers

At the end of the year there were 3 outworkers in the district employed on textile weaving.

#### Schools

There are in the District 4 schools, Meltham C. of E. School having 2 separate departments. Those at Meltham, Meltham Mills and Helme have a piped supply of water from public mains, whilst at Wilshaw a piped private supply is obtained which is slightly polluted from time to time and generally plumbo-solvent.



The sanitary accommodation at the Meltham and Meltham Mills Schools is satisfactory but at Helme and Wilshaw there is no sewer available. During the year, chemical closets have been substituted for the tub-closets at Helme School, whereas at Wilshaw the tub-closets are still in use.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area

### Record of Inspections

Factories Acts—Power Factories ... ..	7
Non-Power Factories ... ..	13
Other Premises ... ..	1
Meat Inspection ... ..	78
Slaughterhouses ... ..	8
Butchers Shops ... ..	4
Food Preparing Premises ... ..	2
Hairdressers ... ..	1
Infectious Disease Investigations ... ..	32
Premises Disinfected ... ..	13
Pathological Specimens sent to P.H. Labs. ... ..	48
Drainage Inspections ... ..	31
Sewage Works visits ... ..	53
Verminous premises ... ..	1
Refuse Collection ... ..	19
Refuse Disposal ... ..	30
Public Conveniences ... ..	18
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	3
Ice Cream Manufacturer ... ..	2
Ice Cream Retailers ... ..	4
Shops Act Inspections ... ..	9
Rats and Mice ... ..	219
Smoke Observations ... ..	5
Nuisance Inspections (excluding Housing) ... ..	17
Housing (Public Health Act) ... ..	114
Housing (Housing Act, 1936) ... ..	12
Housing — Improvement Grants ... ..	11
Interviews ... ..	173
Housing Repairs and Rents Act Survey ... ..	96
Public Water Supply — Sampling ... ..	117
Private Water Supplies — Sampling ... ..	128

### Other Visits

Petroleum Stores ... ..	6
New Buildings ... ..	95

Section IV

HOUSING

During 1954, 30 new permanent houses were erected; 26 by the Council's Contractors and 4 by private enterprise. Of the 1,900 houses in the district, 322 are Council houses. Among those houses privately owned there are 334 houses of the back-to-back type, made up as follows:

1. Back-to-back proper	...	...	152
2. Back-to-earth	...	...	94
3. "Blind" backs	...	...	88

The high proportion of back-to-earth and "blind" back (or single back) houses is due mainly to the hilly nature of this Pennine area. A large proportion of the houses in the district are from 100-200 years old and, although lacking in some amenities, are so soundly built as to provide weather-proof accommodation for many years to come.

During the year action was taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, in respect of 5 houses. All five were made subject to Temporary Closing Orders under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. Thirty-three Statutory Notices were served under the Public Health Act requiring defects to be remedied.

Overcrowding

Two cases of overcrowding were relieved by re-housing into Council Houses, and no new cases were reported during the year.

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Section 20 — Improvement Grants

Seven applications were received for financial assistance towards the improvement of housing accommodation. One application was later withdrawn and one was refused, the remaining five having been approved. The works were put in hand, but in no case was it completed by the end of the year.

Housing Statistics

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	100
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...					137
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	5
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for that purpose	...					12
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	5
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	88

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

(a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of defective dwelling houses (excluding those shown in (a) above) in which defects were remedied in consequence of informal action	...				29



### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:	
	(a) By Owners ...	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	33
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:	
	(a) By Owners ...	33
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation	5
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses closed on Undertakings	5
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses where Undertakings to make fit were given	Nil
(6)	Number of dwelling-houses made fit on Undertakings	Nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

### 4. Housing Act, 1936 — Part IV. Overcrowding

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	16
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	22
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	75
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	9
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil



Section V.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The Urban District Council is responsible for the registration and supervision of retailers and their premises, and for the issue of Dealers Licences and Supplementary Licences to retail designated milks. Samples are submitted for bacteriological and biological examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Wakefield. During the year 1 sample was submitted for both tests and was satisfactory.

The licences issued by the Council during the year were as follows:—

1. Licence to retail Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	1
2. Licence to retail Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	1
3. Licence to retail Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	1

Most of the milk consumed in the district is Tuberculin Tested raw milk distributed by local producer-retailers. Only one producer-retailer sells ungraded milk.

One milk dealer retails T.T. and Pasteurised milk not produced in the area, while a small quantity of sterilised milk is sold from shop premises.

Ice Cream

At the end of 1954 there was 1 establishment registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and 10 premises registered for sale only.

Four visits were made to retail premises and 2 to the ice-cream factory. No samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Prior to the decontrol of meat there were 4 Slaughterhouses which were licensed but not in use.

At the end of meat rationing the owners of 2 of the slaughterhouses notified the Council of their intention to resume slaughtering activities. By agreement, certain alterations were carried out in order to bring the premises into line with present day requirements.

All animals killed at the two slaughterhouses are inspected post-mortem and, where possible ante-mortem. Meat rejected as unfit is disposed of by incineration.

Carcases Inspected

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed:	108	11	152	148
Number inspected:	108	11	152	148
<b>Diseases other than Tuberculosis</b>				
Whole carcasses rejected	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Part carcase or organ rejected	7	NIL	6	NIL
Percentage affected	6.48	NIL	3.94	NIL
<b>Tuberculosis</b>				
Whole carcasses rejected	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Part carcase or organ rejected	16	NIL	NIL	2
Percentage affected	14.81	NIL	NIL	1.35

## Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The number of men licenced to slaughter animals is 17. One new licence was issued in 1954. Under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment Act), 1954, which came into force on 1st October, 1954, all the licences in force during the year will expire on 30th September, 1955.

### Bread

One bakehouse ceased to operate during the year, leaving three premises in use under satisfactory conditions.

### Other Foods

The following foods were inspected at the request of retailers, found to be unfit for human consumption, and voluntarily surrendered.

1 x 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pint tin Sweet Milk.	3 x 16 oz. tins Pears.
1 x 6 oz. tin Pure Cream.	2 x 15 oz. tins Tomatoes.
1 x 2 pint tin Evaporated Milk.	2 x 35 oz. tins Tomatoes.
11 tins Peas.	1 x 16 oz. tin Peaches.
2 tins Ox-Tail Soup.	1 tin Peaches.
1 tin Chicken Soup.	1 x 16 oz. tin Salmon.
1 x 4 oz. jar Chicken in Jelly.	1 tin Salmon
1 tin Pears.	1 tin 1 lb. 13 oz. Peaches.
1 tin Garden Peas.	1 x 8 oz. tin Stewed Steak.
1 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tin Lobster.	1 x 1 lb. 13 oz. tin Apricots.
1 x 8 oz. tin Pilchards.	1 x 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tin Tomato Soup.
5 x 16 oz. tins Evaporated Milk.	1 x 16 oz. tin Baked Beans.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1938

The West Riding County Council is the Authority responsible for the Food Adulteration Section of the Act. The following particulars of samples taken during the year have been supplied by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures:—

				Genuine	Adulterated
Milk samples examined	...	...	...	17	—
Drugs examined	...	...	...	—	—
Other Foods examined	...	...	...	6	—
Proceedings instituted	...	...	...	—	—
Cautions issued	...	...	...	—	—



## **Section VI.**

### **PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

Apart from the occurrence of 28 confirmed cases of Dysentery and the increased incidence of Scarlet Fever, there was no unusual prevalence of infectious or other diseases during the year.

#### **Diphtheria**

No cases of this disease were notified during the year.

Supplies of Anti-Toxin for the treatment of suspected cases and contacts are obtainable by medical practitioners through the hospital service, stocks being held at the Mill Hill Isolation Hospital, Huddersfield, and the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. Diphtheria Prophylactic for immunisation can be obtained by medical practitioners on application to the Divisional Medical Officer.

The immunisation campaign continued during the year, the inoculations being carried out by medical practitioners and officers of the County Health Department. Some 9 children of school age and 60 children under 5 years of age received a complete course of injections, whilst 121 children who had been inoculated some years ago received "booster" doses.

Further particulars of immunisation carried out and the immunisation state of the area will be found in Section VII of this Report.

#### **Scarlet Fever**

During the year 16 cases of this disease were notified as compared with one case in 1953. Although the disease was mild in character in most of the cases, 13 of the patients were admitted to hospital.

#### **Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia**

During the year 5 cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia were notified as compared with 8 cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia and 5 cases of Acute Influenzal Pneumonia in 1953.

One death was registered as attributable to this disease as compared with 3 in 1953.

#### **Meningococcal Infections**

No cases of Meningococcal Infection were notified during the year.

#### **Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis**

No cases of this disease were notified during the year.

#### **Whooping Cough**

During the year 20 cases of this disease were notified as compared with 21 in 1953.



## Puerperal Pyrexia

No cases of this condition were notified during the year.

## Measles

During the year 50 cases of Measles were notified as compared with 86 in the previous year.

## Erysipelas

Two cases of this disease were notified during the year.

## Enteric Fever and Dysentery

During the year 28 cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified, all of which occurred in the months of April and May. Of these cases 12 were children attending Wilshaw C. of E. School and 6 were children attending Helme C. of E. School.

No cases of Enteric Fever were notified.

The following table shows the monthly distribution of confirmed cases of infectious diseases notified during 1954.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov	Dec.	Tot'l
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	43	50
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	10	1	20
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	4	4	6	—	1	—	—	2	1	4	16
Acute Poliomyelitis .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	17	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	—	2	22	17	2	1	1	1	9	18	46	121

## Cancer

The number of deaths attributable to Cancer during the year numbered 17 (5 male, 12 female), as compared with 9 in 1953. The Cancer Death Rate is 3.29 per 1,000 of the estimated population compared with a rate of 1.77 for the previous year. The corresponding rates for the Administrative County and the West Riding Urban Districts are 2.01 and 2.12 respectively.

## Tuberculosis

A total of 3 new cases of Tuberculosis was entered in the Register during the year, as compared with 5 in the previous year.

There was one death from Tuberculosis recorded during the year, the same number as in 1953.

The following tables give details of the number of cases on the Notification Register together with particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
(a) Number of cases on Register at commencement of year	12	9	5	6
(b) Number of cases notified first time during the year	1	—	1	1
(c) Number of cases restored to Register ....	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by notification ....	2	—	—	—
(e) Number of cases removed from the Register ....	1	1	1	1
(f) Number of cases remaining on the Register ....	14	8	5	6

Age (years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—

**Meltham 1954** **Table showing Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year**

Disease	Total Number of cases Notified	Number of cases in which Diagno- sis con- firmed	Number of cases Admitted Mill Hill Isolation Hospital	Deaths	Age distribution of confirmed cases.													Over 65									
					Under 1		1-2		2-3		3-4		4-5		5-10		10-15		15-20		20-35		35-45		45-65		
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Measles ...	50	50	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	5	2	2	2	20	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	20	20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	9	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	5	5	1 (b)	1(a)	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Acute Influen- zal Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever ..	16	16	13 (c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3	—	3	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Erysipelas ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery ...	28	28	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	12	5	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

(a) Deaths from all forms of pneumonia.

(b) Admitted to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

(c) Includes 3 cases admitted to Leeds Road Isolation Hospital, Bradford.



SECTION VII

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
OF THE  
**WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE**

---

**DIVISION 20**

---

URBAN DISTRICTS OF:—

COLNE VALLEY

KIRKBURTON

DENBY DALE

MELTHAM

HOLMFIRTH

SADDLEWORTH

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Divisional Medical Officer**  
**1954**

BY

**ERIC WARD**  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**Divisional Staff:**

**Divisional Medical Officer:**

E. WARD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**Senior Assistant County Medical Officers and School Medical Officers:**

K. M. C. HAIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., C.P.H.

(Appointed 17-1-55)

H. C. MILLIGAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Resigned 5-7-54)

W. P. B. STONEHOUSE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(Appointed 11-1-54)

**Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer:**

E. D. SHAW, M.B., Ch.B.

**Clinic Medical Officers: (Part Time)**

C. DICKSON, M.B., Ch.B.

A. EDWARDS, L.R.C.P.,

L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

A. HAND, M.B., Ch.B.

L. E. LUCAS, M.B., Ch.B.

H. MERCER, M.B., Ch.B.

H. C. PICKERING, M.R.S.C.,  
L.R.C.P.

J. A. STEPHENS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J. E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B.

J. G. WALLER, M.B., Ch.B.

M. V. WILBY, M.B., Ch.B.

P. B. WOOD, M.B., Ch.B.

**Superintendent Health Visitor: Mrs. A. CORLESS**

**Health Visitors and School Nurses:**

Miss B. BAINES

(Appointed 5-7-54)

Mrs. E. BLEZZARD

(Resigned 30-6-54)

Miss D. BROOKE

Miss A. COLEMAN

(Appointed 5-7-54)

\*Mrs. E. FISCHER

Miss M. FLINTOFF

Mrs. D. GAINES

(Transferred to Div. 16, 1-1-54)

Miss B. HIGTON

(Appointed 5-7-54)

Miss C. A. HOLROYD

(Resigned 31-10-54)

Mrs. E. M. HURLEY

Miss C. INCHBOARD

Miss S. KNOX

(Resigned 31-7-54)

Miss D. MELLOR

Miss M. I. MORRIS

Miss M. NUTTALL

Miss B. OWNSWORTH

(Appointed 12-4-54)

Mrs. A. ROYSTON

\*Mrs. M. WARD

Mrs. E. WILLIAMS

Miss D. WOOD

\*Part time

**Midwives:**

Mrs. W. ALLEN

(Appointed 18-1-54, transferred  
to Div. 25, 18-9-54)

Miss E. L. B. BRADLEY

Mrs. J. CAPES

Miss A. CHARLESWORTH

Mrs. J. COOK

Mrs. E. GRAHAM

Miss M. A. STAFFORD

(Resigned 31-3-54)

**Nurse/Midwives:**

Miss A. ASPINALL

Miss A. BEAUMONT

Miss M. BEWSHER

(Appointed 17-9-54)

Miss M. BROOK

†Miss F. B. M. EMMOTT

(Appointed 24-5-54:

Resigned 12-6-54)

(Appointed 2.8.54:

Resigned 30-9-54)

† Temporary

Miss N. CRABTREE

(Appointed 14-5-54)

Miss M. J. CUFFE

(Appointed 10-9-54)

Miss A. E. HITCHEN

(Resigned 24-8-54)

Miss S. JONES

Miss L. KAYE

Miss K. M. PURDON

Miss M. MIDGLEY

(Appointed 14-5-54)

**Home Nurses:**

Miss M. BOOTHROYD

†Miss F. M. BURDETT

(Appointed 21-4-54)

Mrs. N. EARL

Mrs. K. M. KAYE

Miss C. LATIMER

Mrs. J. S. LAUDER

Miss A. LODGE

**Mental Health Social Worker:**

Mrs. M. MOORE

**Speech Therapist:**

Miss M. J. WATKINSON

Senior Clerk: Mr. G. A. BEATSON

Miss A. McWILLIAMS

(Resigned 26-5-54)

Miss H. G. PEACOCK

Mrs. N. PLATT

Miss E. M. PRENTIS

Miss F. RICHARDSON

(Resigned 19-4-54)

Mrs. H. STURGEON

**Mental Health Home Teacher:**

Miss E. BALL

**Duly Authorised Officer:**

Mr. R. G. RACE



## INTRODUCTION

In this Section a brief account is given of the services provided by the West Riding County Council in the Division, as a whole, under the National Health Service Act.

The Division which is comprised of the following six County Districts has a population of 89,150 and an area of 82,750 acres.

Colne Valley U.D.

Denby Dale U.D.

Holmfirth U.D.

Kirkburton U.D.

Meltham U.D.

Saddleworth U.D.

The Medical Staff consists of a Divisional Medical Officer who is also Medical Officer of Health for the six County Districts in the Division and two Senior Assistant County Medical Officers (one of whom is also Deputy Medical Officer of Health for all the County Districts apart from Saddleworth, whilst the other is Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Saddleworth only). In addition there is one full-time Assistant County Medical Officer and 11 part-time Medical Officers who undertake sessional duties at Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics.

Medical auxiliary staff employed wholly in the Division are one Mental Health Social Worker and one Mental Health Home Teacher whilst the Speech Therapist is shared with Division 19.

Details of the Health-Visiting, Home Nursing and Midwifery Staffs will be found later in this report.

The statistics given in this Section relate to the whole Division but where practicable they are sub-divided into those for the various districts.



# COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	Colne Valley U.D.	Denby Dale U.D.	Holm- firth U.D.	Kirk- burton U.D.	Mel- tham U.D.	Saddle worth U.D.	Division No. 20	Aggregate West Riding U.D.'s.	West Riding Admin. County	Eng- land & Wales prov. figures
Area (Acres) ...	16,052	10,165	17,565	14,577	5,906	18,485	82,750	380,334	1,609,759	*
Population .....	21,610	9,650	18,710	17,360	5,160	16,660	89,150	1,162,000	1,600,000	*
Live Births ....	301	116	230	174	65	166	1052	17,940	24,164	*
Still Births .....	3	4	4	9	4	3	27	465	642	*
Deaths .....	281	134	405	400	73	221	1514	14,745	19,079	*
Deaths under 1 year of age .....	9	3	12	5	1	6	36	483	677	*
<b>Birth Rate</b> Per 1,000 estimated population (Crude)	13.93	12.02	12.29	10.02	12.60	9.96	11.80	14.7	15.1	15.2
„ (Adjusted)	14.90	13.34	13.40	11.43	13.23	11.06	*	14.8	15.3	15.2
<b>Death Rates</b> All per 1,000 est- imated population All Causes (Crude)	13.00	13.89	21.65	23.04	14.15	13.27	16.98	12.7	11.9	11.3
„ „ (Adjusted)	12.22	12.78	18.83	19.82	13.02	11.81	*	12.8	12.5	11.3
Infective and Para- sitic diseases ex- cluding T.B. but including Syphilis and other V.D. ...	0.05	—	0.05	0.52	—	0.06	0.13	0.07	0.08	*
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	0.05	0.31	0.11	0.40	—	0.06	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.16
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	—	—	—	—	0.19	—	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02
Respiratory Diseases (excluding tuber- culosis of respir- atory system) .....	0.93	1.14	1.55	2.25	1.55	0.84	1.36	1.27	1.22	*
Cancer .....	2.17	2.28	2.83	2.88	3.29	2.10	2.51	2.12	2.01	2.04
Heart and Circul- atory Diseases .....	5.23	5.49	9.51	9.04	4.26	5.64	6.92	4.88	4.54	*
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous Sys- tem ... ..	2.13	1.76	4.38	3.69	2.13	2.46	2.93	2.03	1.84	*
<b>Infant Mortality</b> .....	29.90	25.86	52.17	28.74	15.38	36.14	34.22	28.3	28.0	25.5
<b>Maternal Mortality</b>	—	—	—	5.46	—	—	0.93	0.80	0.89	0.69

\* Figures not available.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births

The number of live births registered in the Divisional area during 1954 was 1,052 (535 males, 517 females), a decrease of 84 compared with the previous year.

The CRUDE BIRTH RATE was 11.80 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 12.71 for 1953.

The illegitimate live births numbered 37 or 3.52% of the total live births, an increase of 3 compared with the previous year.

### Deaths

The deaths assigned to the Divisional area after correction for transfers were 1,514 (746 males, 768 females), an increase of 104 on the total for 1953.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 16.98 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 15.77 for the previous year.

The following were the principal causes of death in order of frequency:—

(i)	Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System ...	617
(ii)	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..	261
(iii)	Malignant Neoplasms ... ..	224
(iv)	Respiratory Diseases (excluding Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..	121

These 4 causes accounted for 80.78% of the total deaths.

### Infant Mortality

In 1954 the deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 36, an increase of 6 on the previous year. Of these deaths 24 infants were under 4 weeks of age at the time of death.

The INFANT MORTALITY RATE was 34.22 per 1,000 live births as compared with 26.41 for 1953.

The death rate amongst legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births was 33.50 as compared with 25.41 for 1953.

The death rate amongst illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births was 54.05 as compared with 58.82 for 1953.

The following table gives the causes of death of all infants at various ages under one year:—



# DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death	Under 1 day	1-2 days	2-5 days	5-7 days	Total under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
1. Virus nasal infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
2. Intussusception ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
3. Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	2	1	—	8
4. Congenital Malforma- tions ...	1	1	1	—	3	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	5
5. Premature Birth ...	8	2	4	—	14	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	14
6. Atelectasis ...	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
7. Intra-Cranial Haemorrh- age ...	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
8. Asphyxia from Toxaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>36</b>



# EPIDEMIOLOGY

## Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year but after admission to hospital the diagnosis was not confirmed.

## Diphtheria

Two cases of diphtheria were notified during the year but in neither case was the diagnosis confirmed.

According to records available, only 53.54% of the children under 5 are at present protected. Whilst this figure is probably lower owing to lack of records, than it should be in reality, it is a very disappointing figure and energetic steps should be taken to secure a much higher acceptance rate for young children.

If the fall in the incidence and mortality of diphtheria is to continue it is vital to secure that not less than 75% of babies are immunised before their first birthday, otherwise a return of diphtherial outbreaks is a definite possibility. The virtual disappearance of diphtheria is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation.

Arrangements for immunisation have continued as in previous years, the inoculations being given at Infant Welfare Centres or by private medical practitioners, and in addition special immunisation sessions have been held in various schools. The response has been reasonably satisfactory and no special mobile campaigns have been held.

## Number of Children Immunised in 1954

Urban District	Full Courses							
	Age at date of Final injection							
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
Colne Valley ...	136	116	15	6	7	61	10	351
Denby Dale ...	47	61	5	2	5	14	4	138
Holmfirth ...	67	87	12	2	3	6	1	178
Kirkburton ...	37	42	2	4	1	—	—	86
Meltham ...	28	24	5	2	1	8	1	69
Saddleworth ...	91	64	15	14	3	26	4	217
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1039</b>
	Secondary Booster Injection							
	Age at date of injection							
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
Colne Valley ...	—	—	—	—	39	197	69	305
Denby Dale ...	—	—	—	—	14	159	30	203
Holmfirth ...	—	—	—	—	24	81	23	128
Kirkburton ...	—	—	—	—	8	29	1	38
Meltham ...	—	—	—	—	23	75	23	121
Saddleworth ...	—	—	—	—	30	292	150	472
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>1267</b>

Records of the immunisation state of children in the Divisional area as at the 31st December, 1954, are shown below.

Age at 31-12-54 i.e., Born in Year	Under 1 1954	1 to 4 1950-53	5 to 9 1945-49	10 to 14 1940-44	Total Under 15
Number immunised ....	70	3089	6,736	5,185	15,080
Estimated mid-year child population 1954.	Children under 5 5,900		Children 5-14 11,940		17,840
Percentage of child population immunised ....	53.54		99.84		84.53

### Typhoid Fever

During the year one case of Typhoid Fever was notified, the patient being a boy aged 12 years resident in the Kirkburton Urban District. The boy had diarrhoea for about 3 days commencing on the 25th October and then apparently recovered and was quite well until the 7th November when he complained of listlessness, loss of appetite, etc. He took to his bed on the 10th November and was found to have a temperature of 103.

A specimen of faeces was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination on the 12th November and salmonella typhi were reported isolated on the 16th November. He was admitted to Mill Hill Isolation Hospital on the same day and discharged home on the 24th December.

The usual enquiries were made but the source of infection was not determined.

### Smallpox

No cases of smallpox were reported during the year.

The number of records of vaccinations and re-vaccinations received during the year was 304 and 56 as compared with 9,656 and 6,816 respectively in the previous year when the demand for vaccination was so great because of the occurrence in the area of a confirmed case of smallpox.

Details of the various age groups vaccinated and re-vaccinated are given below.

District	VACCINATIONS					Total Vaccina- tions
	Under 1	1	2—4	5—14	15 +	
Colne Valley ...	82	7	1	2	8	100
Denby Dale ...	30	—	2	2	2	36
Holmfirth ...	41	2	3	1	3	50
Kirkburton ...	21	5	2	—	5	33
Meltham ... ..	13	—	2	—	1	16
Saddleworth ...	50	3	6	7	3	69
Grand Totals ...	237	17	16	12	22	304



District	RE-VACCINATIONS					Total Re-Vaccinations
	Under 1	1	2—4	5—14	15 +	
Colne Valley ...	—	—	—	2	12	14
Denby Dale ...	—	—	—	1	3	4
Holmfirth ...	—	—	1	2	9	12
Kirkburton ...	—	—	—	—	9	9
Meltham ...	—	—	—	—	5	5
Saddleworth ...	—	—	—	2	10	12
Grand Totals ...	—	—	1	7	48	56

No cases of Generalised Vaccinia or Post-Vaccinal Encephalomyelitis were reported, and no deaths from any complications of vaccination occurred during the year.

### Whooping Cough

The restricted scheme for the immunisation of children against Whooping Cough has continued throughout the year. Supplies of vaccine can be obtained by medical practitioners on application to the Divisional Medical Officer and children up to the age of 4 years may be immunised.

The inoculations have been carried out by private medical practitioners and at Infant Welfare Centres and during the year 310 children received protective treatment as follows:—

District	By General Practitioners	At Infant Welfare Clinics	Total
Colne Valley	22	110	132
Denby Dale	1	31	32
Holmfirth	8	37	45
Kirkburton	14	29	43
Meltham	9	7	16
Saddleworth	16	26	42
Total	70	240	310

## MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES

### Domiciliary Midwifery

The number of cases attended by the domiciliary midwives continues to fall. In 1949 the number of cases attended was 477. In 1951 it was 380, in 1953 it was 336 and in 1954 it had fallen to 324.

Whilst it is generally agreed that a separate midwifery service is desirable, it is not in the best interests of the patients if this can only be obtained by giving the fairly large districts to each full-time midwife in order to provide a reasonable number of patients. In order to overcome the difficulty the policy of appointing nurse/midwives in preference to whole-time midwives has been pursued during the year. This policy will be followed where desirable when vacancies occur in the future.



At the commencement of the year 6 whole-time midwives, 5 nurse/midwives, and 2 relief nurse/midwives were engaged in the Division. During the year a whole-time midwife and a relief nurse/midwife resigned their appointments whilst 2 nurse/midwives and 2 relief nurse/midwives were appointed.

The position regarding midwifery services at the end of the year was as follows:—

Urban District	Authorised Establishment	Staff at 31st December, 1954	
		Whole-time Midwives	Nurse/Midwives
Colne Valley	3	1	1
Denby Dale	2	—	2
Holmfirth	2	2	—
Kirkburton	2	1	2
Meltham	1	—	1
Saddleworth	2	1	1
Relief	2	—	3
Division 20	14	5	10

One independent midwife signified her intention to practice in the area.

Of the 1,093 births notified and attributed to the Division, 330 occurred at home. The following table shows the number of cases attended :—

MIDWIFE	CONFINEMENTS		HOME VISITS	
	As Midwife	As Mat. Nurse	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal
<b>Whole-time County Midwives.</b>				
Bradley ... ..	27	1	232	601
Capes ... ..	38	1	334	901
Charlesworth ... ..	27	5	348	675
Cook ... ..	35	2	307	855
Graham ... ..	26	1	315	587
Stafford ... ..	3	3	52	101
(Resigned 31-3-54)				
	156	13	1588	3720
<b>Nurse/Midwives.</b>				
Allen ... ..	12	4	87	25
(Resigned 18-9-54)				
Aspinall ... ..	12	—	78	330
Beaumont ... ..	12	1	167	304
Bewsher ... ..	6	1	44	165
(Appointed 17-9-54)				
Brook ... ..	14	—	135	353
Crabtree ... ..	11	—	61	184
(Appointed 14-5-54)				
Cuffe ... ..	4	—	24	46
(Appointed 10-9-54)				
*Emmott ... ..	3	—	—	56
Hitchen ... ..	4	1	22	110
(Resigned 24-8-54)				
Jones ... ..	29	2	290	745
Kaye ... ..	5	—	17	94
Midgley ... ..	5	—	6	100
(Appointed 14-5-54)				
Purdon ... ..	23	—	160	469
	140	9	1091	2981
<b>Independent Midwives.</b>	3	3	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2679</b>	<b>6701</b>

\*Temporary appointment for periods 24-5-54 to 12-6-54 and 2-8-54 to 30-9-54

Of the cases attended 5 were twin births and 7 were patients who normally resided outside the Division (outward transfers). Thus 322 of the births attended were attributed to the Division. Of the remaining 8 births attributed to the Division one was attended by a medical practitioner and transferred immediately to hospital, 2 by midwives from a neighbouring Division, and 5 were inward transfers.

In addition 21 miscarriages were also attended by domiciliary midwives.

The services of the domiciliary midwives are offered to all patients who are confined in hospitals or maternity homes but are discharged home before the 14th day of puerperium. During the year 242 such patients received nursing care, 753 individual visits being paid to them. Further details are given in the table on page 14a.

**Notifications:**

The following notifications were received from midwives practising in the Division:—

Death of Child	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Artificial Feeding	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Laying out the Dead	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

**Medical Assistance:**

Medical aid forms sent in by midwives during 1954 numbered 189 (118 domiciliary, 71 institutional). The following table summarises the cases for which medical aid was sought:

PREGNANCY					LYING-IN				
			Dom.	Inst.				Dom.	Inst.
Abortion	...	...	1	—	Breast Conditions	...	5	—	
Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage			1	—	Post-Partum Hæmorrhage	...	—	2	
Albuminuria	...	...	2	—	Pyrexia	...	3	—	
Foetal Distress	...	...	—	1	Severe Chill	...	2	—	
High Blood Pressure	...	...	1	—	Thrombosis	...	1	—	
Malpresentation	...	...	2	—	Varicose Veins	...	2	—	
Ruptured Membranes	...	...	1	—			13	2	
Threatened Abortion	...	...	1	—					
Vomiting	...	...	1	—					
			10	1					
LABOUR					THE CHILD				
Cord Presentation	...	...	1	—	Asphyxia	...	1	—	
Episiotomy	...	...	2	2	Atelectasis	...	1	—	
Instrumental Delivery	...	...	—	1	Chest Conditions	...	1	—	
Malpresentation	...	...	8	2	Conjunctivitis	...	1	—	
Obstetric Shock	...	...	1	—	Cyanosis	...	1	—	
Post-Partum Hæmorrhage	...	...	2	1	Deformity	...	1	—	
Premature Labour	...	...	—	2	Discharging Eyes	...	2	—	
Prolonged Labour	...	...	7	10	Hæmorrhage	...	1	—	
Retained Placenta	...	...	4	1	Hernia (slight)	...	1	—	
Ruptured Perineum	...	...	50	49	Jaundice	...	1	—	
Stillbirth	...	...	1	—	Nasal Cold	...	1	—	
Vaginal Lacerations	...	...	2	—	Prematurity	...	2	—	
			78	68	Pyrexia	...	1	—	
					Skin Condition	...	2	—	
							17	—	



## Gas and Air Analgesia:

At the end of 1954, all the 15 midwives in domiciliary practice held the certificate in Gas and Air Analgesia administration and were equipped with the necessary apparatus.

Analgesics were administered by domiciliary midwives to 219 cases, or 67.59% of the cases attended, as compared with 232 cases in 1953.

Pethidine was administered by domiciliary midwives to 198 cases, or 61.11% of the cases attended, as compared with 187 cases in 1953.

## Ante-Natal Clinics

There are 4 separate Ante-Natal Clinics in the Division whilst occasional patients are seen at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

During the year 127 patients made 362 attendances at the various clinics, details of which are given in the following table:—

Clinic	No. of sessions	No. of patients	No. of attendances	Average attendance per session
Lepton ... ..	12	12	35	2.92
Meltham ... ..	12	33	95	7.92
Springhead ... ..	13	26	75	5.77
Uppermill ... ..	11	27	84	7.64
*Denby Dale ... ..	10	6	16	1.60
*Holmfirth ... ..	1	1	1	1.00
*New Mill ... ..	6	7	7	1.17
*Skelmanthorpe ... ..	12	13	42	3.50
*Slaithwaite ... ..	3	2	7	2.33
Total ...	80	127	362	4.53

\* Patients seen at Infant Welfare Clinics.

It will be seen that the attendance figures compare unfavourably with the previous year when 135 patients made 405 attendances.

No special Post-Natal Clinics were held but patients are seen for post natal examination at the Ante-Natal Clinics. The attendances, however, leave much to be desired. More could be done by way of special visits by health visitors but staffing difficulties prevent this.

## Relaxation Classes

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers have continued to be held at Denby Dale, Slaithwaite and Springhead and were introduced at Holmfirth, Lepton, Meltham and New Mill in May, 1954. Where possible these classes are attended by a Health Visitor who gives instruction in mothercraft.



During the year 109 patients made 735 attendances as follows:—

Clinic	No. of Sessions	No. of Patients	No. of attendances	Average attendance per session
Denby Dale ... ..	37	25	127	3.43
Holmfirth ... ..	18	8	44	2.44
Lepton ... ..	23	6	44	1.91
Meltham ... ..	18	7	38	2.11
New Mill ... ..	29	13	102	3.52
Slaithwaite ... ..	50	41	328	6.56
Springhead ... ..	26	9	52	2.00
Total ...	201	109	735	3.66

### “Flying Squad” Arrangements

“Flying Squads,” based on the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and the Maternity Block, Oldham and District General Hospital, Oldham are available for dealing with emergencies arising in the domiciliary midwifery service. The “squads” consist of an obstetrical consultant together with nursing staff, and provides facilities for blood transfusion and other emergency treatment.

Normally the call for the services of the “squads” is made to the hospital by the general practitioner attending the case, but a call for assistance can be made direct by the midwife if the urgency and time available precludes her from getting in touch with the patient’s own doctor first.

The “squad” was not called upon to attend any patient in this Division during the year.

### Institutional Midwifery

No difficulty has been experienced regarding maternity accommodation, the majority of expectant mothers being able to secure admission to the institution of their own choice.

Of the 1,093 births attributed to the Division, only 330, or 30.19% took place at home, as compared with 340 or 28.84% for the previous year.

A summary of the cases for which medical aid was sought by midwives in institutions is given on page 11a.

Owing to shortage of staff, however, patients are from time to time discharged before the 14th day, as will be seen from the following table.

The Divisional Medical Officer is informed by the hospital authorities when these early discharges are to take place, and arrangements are made for the appropriate domiciliary midwife to attend the patient at home until the 14th day of the puerperium.

	Day of Discharge											Total
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
<b>Colne Valley U.D.</b>												
No. of Patients ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	34	19	9	5	77
No. of Visits ...	—	—	—	—	—	5	39	76	37	13	7	177
<b>Denby Dale U.D.</b>												
No. of Patients ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	10	11	4	1	34
No. of Visits ...	—	—	—	—	—	18	19	29	24	8	1	99
<b>Holmfirth U.D.</b>												
No. of Patients ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	7	3	—	—	12
No. of Visits ...	—	—	—	—	8	—	5	28	9	—	—	50
<b>Kirkburton U.D.</b>												
No. of Patients ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	13	28	12	3	—	58
No. of Visits ...	—	—	—	—	—	12	60	85	32	5	—	194
<b>Meltham U.D.</b>												
No. of Patients ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	4	1	—	13
No. of Visits ...	—	—	—	—	—	12	15	11	12	2	—	52
<b>Saddleworth U.D.</b>												
No. of Patients ...	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	18	22	3	1	48
No. of Visits ...	—	—	8	—	15	—	5	67	76	8	2	181
<b>Total No. of Patients</b>	—	—	1	—	3	8	32	100	71	20	7	242
<b>Total No. of Visits...</b>	—	—	8	—	23	47	143	296	190	36	10	753

Details of the places of confinement of patients from the various districts are shown in the following table.

# ADMISSIONS TO MATERNITY HOSPITALS

Place of Confinement	Colne Valley	Denby Dale	'Holmfirth	Kirkburton	Meltham	Saddleworth	Total
Princess Royal Maternity Home	127	48	10	76	25	—	286
Woodfield Maternity Home	—	—	—	—	—	23	23
Holme Valley Memorial Hospital	—	—	153	—	—	—	153
St. Luke's Hospital, Huddersfield	75	4	5	27	16	—	127
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary	28	6	5	24	8	—	71
Oldham and District General Hospital	—	—	—	—	—	53	53
Lakes Hospital, Ashton-U-Lyne	—	—	—	—	—	13	13
Other Maternity Hospitals	—	1	—	2	—	3	6
Other General Hospitals	2	—	—	4	—	5	11
Private Nursing Homes	14	2	2	1	1	—	20
Total Institutional	246	61	175	134	50	97	763
Domiciliary	71	57	52	57	17	76	330
Total Confinements	317	118	227	191	67	173	1093



## DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

On the 28th June, 1954, Local Health Authorities became responsible for the distribution of Welfare Foods. The local food offices remained open for a transitional period of two weeks and were then closed down. The documentation work previously carried out by the local food offices was transferred to the local offices of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance and it is from these offices that beneficiaries are now to obtain their documents of entitlement for Welfare Foods.

No serious difficulties were encountered in the take over period and apart from early "teething troubles" the revised arrangements have operated satisfactorily. In some areas the times at which the foods are available to the public are more restricted than they were when the food offices were in operation, but very few complaints have been received on this score. The foods are available at all times during office hours at the Divisional Health Office to meet cases of emergency.

A revision of the distribution centres became necessary but where possible existing centres were maintained. These included several Infant Welfare Clinics but under the revised arrangements welfare foods were made available at all Infant Welfare sessions. Clerical assistance is provided at some of the busier distribution centres whilst at the Infant Welfare Clinics Health Visitors are responsible for distribution, in most cases with the help and co-operation of the voluntary Clinic Committees. At the smaller centres, the voluntary workers who had previously distributed the foods on behalf of the Ministry of Food were approached and in the majority of cases they agreed to continue to give their services. Thanks are due to all these voluntary workers whose services are greatly appreciated and thankfully acknowledged.

There are two main storage points in the Division, viz: the Divisional Health Office, Woodville, Scar Lane, Golcar, and the Mechanics' Institute, Uppermill. The foods are delivered to these two points by "S.P.D." (Special Parcels Delivery) which is a service arranged by the Ministry of Food with certain transport contractors. The transport contractors serving this Division draw their supplies from their two main depots at Bradford and Manchester. Approximately 4—5 weeks supplies are maintained at each main storage point and from here supplies are re-distributed monthly by local carrier to the distribution centres.

As all the distribution centres, except Golcar, are held in hired premises which are only available for sessional use, storage difficulties have been experienced but these have been largely overcome with the

co-operation of the Trustees of the various premises. In one instance where the storage accommodation is extremely limited, stocks held have had to be restricted to 2 weeks supplies instead of the usual 4—5 weeks. This has meant more frequent deliveries having to be made to this centre but as it is in close proximity to the main storage point the additional transport costs involved have been negligible.

At the 21 distribution centres in the Division, the following welfare foods were distributed during the period 28th June, 1954 to the 1st January, 1955.

National Dried Milk	10,152 tins
Orange Juice	20,883 bottles
Cod Liver Oil	5,270 bottles
Vitamins A and D Tablets	1,327 packets

Full details are shown in the following table.



Distribution Centre	Hours of opening		No. of Sessions	Total Sales				Average Sales per Session									
	Day	Time p.m.		N.D.M.	C.L.O	Vit. Tabs.	O.J.	N.D.M.	C.L.O	Vit. Tabs.	O.J.						
				Tins	Bts.	Pkts.	Bts.	Tins	Bts.	Pkts.	Bts.						
<b>Colne Valley</b>																	
GOLCAR Woodville, Scar Lane	Wed.	2—4	27	537	412	78	1667	19.88	15.25	2.88	61.74						
LINTHWAITE Methodist Church, Stones Lane	Tue.	2—4	25	322	234	44	957	12.88	9.36	1.76	38.28						
MARSDEN Conservative Club	Thur.	2—4	27	589	346	67	1382	21.81	12.81	2.48	51.18						
SLAITHWAITE Civic Hall	Wed.	2—4	27	1231	573	158	2159	45.59	21.22	5.85	79.96						
<b>Denby Dale</b>																	
DENBY DALE Victoria Memorial Hall	1st & 3rd Wed.	2—4	12	466	274	75	1268	38.83	22.83	6.25	105.66						
EMLEY Reading Room	3rd Thur.	2—4	6	132	66	14	251	22.00	11.00	2.33	41.83						
SKELMANTHORPE Wesley Reform Chapel	Wed.	2—4	27	440	197	65	1072	16.29	7.29	2.40	39.70						
<b>Holmfirth</b>																	
HOLMFIRTH Methodist Sunday School	Thur.	2—4	27	1592	1019	234	3119	58.96	37.74	8.66	115.51						
HONLEY Southgate Methodist Sunday School	Fri.	2—4	26	648	325	92	1540	24.92	12.50	3.53	59.23						
NEW MILL Council Offices	Wed.	2—4	27	596	384	126	1315	22.07	14.22	4.66	48.70						



Kirkburton											
FLOCKTON Church School	1st Tue.	2.30—3.30	7	—	20	1	63	—	2.85	.14	9.00
GRANGE MOOR Upper Whitley County School	Mon.	3.45—4.00	7	40	25	—	93	5.71	3.57	—	13.28
KIRKBURTON Drift Hall	Tue.	2—4	25	813	203	75	718	32.52	8.12	3.00	28.72
KIRKHEATON Council Offices	2nd & 4th Wed.	3—4	12	182	65	9	210	15.16	5.41	.75	17.50
LEPTON Council Offices	Tue.	2—4	25	151	158	20	579	6.04	6.32	.80	23.16
SHEPLEY County School	2nd & 4th Wed.	2.30—3.30	10	112	81	11	194	11.20	8.10	1.10	19.40
Meltham											
MELTHAM Baptist Schools	Tue.	2—4	24	813	231	56	1080	33.87	9.62	2.33	45.00
Saddleworth											
DELPH Independent Sunday School	Tue.	1.30—3.30	25	384	95	31	436	15.36	3.80	1.24	17.44
GREENFIELD Wesleyan Sunday School	Thur.	1.30—3.30	26	610	123	49	713	23.46	4.73	1.88	27.42
SPRINGHEAD Congregational Sunday School	Fri.	2—4	26	164	192	53	957	6.30	7.38	2.03	36.80
UPPERMILL Mechanics Institute	Wed.	2—4	27	330	247	69	1110	12.22	9.14	2.55	41.11
TOTALS			445	10152	5270	1327	20883	22.81	11.82	2.98	46.92



## CHILD WELFARE

### Infant Welfare Clinics

There are in the Division 16 Infant Welfare Centres and 1 Weighing Centre. Apart from the Centre at Golcar all are held in hired premises. As the hired premises are only available for sessional use, difficulties are experienced at some regarding access to records and stores at times other than during actual clinic sessions. At others storage facilities are inadequate. All suffer from the disadvantage of being built for some other purpose and improvisation is needed in order to use them for clinic purposes. Equipment has to be brought out before each session and packed away again at the conclusion. This entails much labour on the part of the health visitors. In spite of these disadvantages it is not reasonable to suggest that all centres should be accommodated in premises designed and solely used for clinics. A compromise would be to erect specially designed premises at a central point in each Urban District and to retain some of the outlying premises as monthly and fortnightly weighing centres.

At the beginning of May the Kirkburton Infant Welfare Centre was transferred from Dogley Lane Congregational Church to the more centrally situated Drill Hall, and in December the Linthwaite Infant Welfare Centre was transferred to the Methodist Church, Stones Lane, Linthwaite. The latter move was made in view of the County Councils proposal to dispose of Grove House, Linthwaite.

Weekly clinic sessions are held at Delph, Golcar, Greenfield, Holmfirth, Honley, Kirkburton, Lepton, Linthwaite, Marsden, Meltham, New Mill, Slaithwaite, Springhead and Uppermill, whilst clinics are conducted twice monthly at Denby Dale and Skelmanthorpe.

During the year 2,502 children were seen and a total of 22,147 attendances were made, details of which are shown in the following table, as compared with 2,805 children and a total of 23,306 visits in the previous year.

Clinic	No. of sessions	No. of children who attended and who were born in:—				No. of attendances by children who at date of attendance were:—				Average attendance per Session		
		1954	1953	1949-52	Total	—1 yrs.	1—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs.	Total	—1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs.
Delph ...	51	25	11	63	99	662	239	1031	1932	12.98	4.69	20.22
Golcar ...	52	53	70	78	201	1021	355	276	1652	19.63	6.83	5.31
Greenfield ...	51	25	72	104	201	826	285	717	1828	16.20	5.59	14.06
Holmfirth ...	52	60	75	131	266	860	297	348	1505	16.54	5.71	6.69
Honley ...	50	44	50	54	148	749	264	245	1258	14.98	5.28	4.90
Kirkburton ...	48	65	34	38	137	702	115	90	907	14.63	2.40	1.88
Lepton ...	48	31	32	21	84	422	131	158	711	8.79	2.73	3.29
Linthwaite ...	48	34	52	76	162	762	291	345	1398	15.88	6.06	7.19
Marsden ...	52	52	59	119	230	746	533	628	1907	14.35	10.25	12.08
Meltham ...	47	39	53	122	214	709	397	445	1551	15.09	8.45	9.47
New Mill ...	51	35	35	76	146	422	212	348	982	8.27	4.16	6.82
Slaithwaite ...	52	56	41	84	181	715	316	642	1673	13.75	6.08	12.35
Springhead ...	50	34	45	46	125	822	572	660	2054	16.44	11.44	13.20
Denby Dale ...	24	39	39	51	129	533	178	182	893	22.21	7.42	7.58
Skelmanthorpe	22	35	43	5	83	384	74	29	487	17.45	3.36	1.32
Uppermill ...	52	35	39	22	96	662	416	331	1409	12.73	8.00	6.37
Total ...	750	662	750	1090	2502	10997	4675	6475	22147	14.66	6.23	8.63

The monthly sessions of the Weighing Centre at Emley have continued, 21 individual children having made 112 attendances, as compared with 24 children making 87 attendances in 1953.

### Premature Babies

During the year 62 babies weighing 5½lb. or less were born in hospitals or nursing homes to mothers normally resident in the Division and 22 were born at home. Of those born at home, 4 died during the first 48 hours and the remaining 18 survived at the end of one month. Particulars of survival are shown in the following table:



THE FATE OF PREMATURE BABIES BORN IN THE DIVISIONAL AREA

Weight Group lbs.	Number of Premature Births													Number Dying (days of survival).														Over 14 up to 28 days	Number Surviving Over 28 Days					Percent-age Survival in 1954	Percent-age Survival in 1953
	Born Alive					Born Dead	First Week							Second Week																					
	A	B1	B2	C	T		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14															
5-5½	10	-	12	13	35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	12	13	35	100.0	91.3					
4½-5	5	-	5	9	19	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	4	9	18	97.74	92.3					
4-4½	1	-	3	8	12	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	5	8	66.67	100.0					
3½-4	1	-	2	2	5	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	40.0	100.0					
3-3½	-	-	3	1	4	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	25.0	66.7					
2½-3	3	-	-	1	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	50.0	00.0					
2-2½	-	-	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	00.0	100.0					
1½-2	1	-	-	1	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	00.0	00.0					
1-1½	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	00.0	00.0					
	22	-	25	37	84	16	13	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	20	28	66	78.57	91.9					

Total adjusted live births ..... 1052

Number of live premature births ..... 84

Percentage of total live births ..... 7.9

Number born dead ..... 16

A: Born at home and attended by a midwife.

B1: Born in a Private Nursing Home.

B2: Born in a Maternity Home.

C: Born in a General Hospital.

T: Total.

At the end of the year there were 3 midwives who had special training in the care of premature babies, having attended a course at the Sorrento Hospital, Birmingham.

Two premature baby outfits are available in the Division and are kept at the Divisional Health Office, Golcar, and at the Mechanics' Institute Uppermill. Arrangements are made for the outfit to be conveyed by ambulance to any household where its use is thought to be advisable by the midwife. During the year the outfit at Golcar was called into use on one occasion.

### **Day Nurseries**

There are no day nurseries in the Division.

### **Nurseries and Child Minders' Regulations Act, 1948**

One person in the Division is registered as a child minder; she is the proprietress of a small kindergarten school in Saddleworth and the permitted number of children she may mind is 10.

An application for registration as a private industrial day nursery was approved by the County Council in February in respect of Thornlee Hall, Grotton, Saddleworth. The nursery provides accommodation for 6 babies, 22 tweenies and 43 toddlers.

An outbreak of gastro-enteritis commenced in May at this nursery. Although the attacks were mild in character the outbreak caused considerable disorganisation in the Nursery and made much work for the Sanitary Inspector in the collection and transport of specimens to the Public Health Laboratory in Manchester. Altogether 22 children are known to have been affected.

The industrial nursery at "Oakdene," Horsforth Road, Greenfield was closed down at the beginning of the year.

These premises were visited by the Department's medical staff during the year.

## **SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE**

### **Introduction**

This account of the School Health Service is a Divisional report and is a combination of the reports already presented to the Upper Agbrigg Divisional Executive and the Saddleworth District Sub-Committee.

As with other sections of the Divisional Medical Officer's Report, all statistics relate to the whole Division for the whole year.

The policy of visiting each school twice yearly for the purpose of routine medical inspections has continued throughout the Division. As in previous years the defects found which required treatment or observation were namely, defective vision, defective speech, enlarged tonsils and adenoids and minor degrees of flat feet. The ascertainment of affected pupils in need of special educational treatment has continued, 44 cases being added to the list during the year, making a total of 256 at the end of the year.



Whilst it is now much easier to secure the admission of delicate children to Open-air Schools there is still great difficulty in placing educationally sub-normal pupils either in special schools or arranging special educational treatment for them in ordinary schools.

With the appointment of two Dental Officers early in the year the resumption of the County Dental Services for schoolchildren and other priority classes in the Colne and Holme Valleys became possible.

### Schools in the Area

There are in the Division 79 schools or separate departments, which include the Royd Edge Special School, Meltham. This is a reduction of one on last year's figure, due to the amalgamation of the Mixed and Infants Departments at Honley C. of E. School.

The approximate number of pupils on the registers in December, 1954 was 11,867 (an increase of 412 as compared with the previous year) and was composed of:

<b>Infants</b>	<b>Juniors</b>	<b>Seniors</b>
3,008	5,289	3,570

Of the 72 Primary and "Through" Schools 36 are Voluntary and 36 are County Schools.

The distribution is as follows:—

Type of School	Colne Valley		Denby Dale		Holm-firth		Kirk-burton		Mel-tham		Saddle-worth		Total	
	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils	Schools	Pupils
Primary ... ..	8	1028	9	1053	14	1722	13	1467	5	547	11	1232	60	7049
Secondary Modern ...	1	290	1	560	1	513	1	248	—	—	1	338	5	1949
Through ... ..	10	1754	—	—	—	—	1	283	—	—	1	201	12	2238
Grammar ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	577	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	577
Special ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	54	—	—	1	54
All Types ... ..	19	3072	10	1613	16	2812	15	1998	6	601	13	1771	79	11867

Pupils from Colne Valley attend Royds Hall Grammar School and pupils from Saddleworth attend Hulme, Oldham and Manchester Grammar Schools, but so far as the School Health Service is concerned they are the responsibility of the Huddersfield and Oldham County Borough Councils, and of the Medical Officers of the Independent Schools.

Some pupils from outlying parts of the Division attend Grammar Schools at Mirfield, Penistone, etc.

### Medical Inspections

The periodic medical examination of the four age groups, i.e. entrants (5 years +), juniors (7 years +), intermediate (10 years +) and seniors (14 years +) continued throughout the year. In all 172 separate inspections were carried out at the 79 schools in the Division.

As in previous years pupils continuing attendance at school beyond the age of 15 years were given additional routine medical examinations at 16 and 18 years. Re-examinations of children who at previous periodic or special examinations had been found to have defects requiring treatment or observation were made at each school medical inspection.

**Periodic Medical Inspections**

During the year 4490 periodic inspections were carried out as compared with 3906 in 1953.

The number of children inspected in the various age groups is as follows:—

Prescribed age groups:

Entrants	1336
7 to 8 year group	1629
Last year primary	456
First year secondary	290
Last year secondary	633
Other periodics	146
Total	4490

**Findings of Medical Inspections**

The following figures show the incidence of certain defects in the 4490 children who were examined at the periodic inspections:—

Defect or Disease	No. of Children Requiring	
	Treatment	Observation
Nose or Throat	58	349
Speech	7	44
Cervical Glands	2	165
Heart and Circulation	11	51
Lungs	25	144
Orthopædic	80	188
Eyes	83	887

Further details will be found in the Table on Page 25a.

Particulars of the age grouping of children found at periodic medical inspections to require treatment are given below:—

Groups	For Defective Vision (excluding Squint).	For any of the other conditions recorded in table of defects	Total Individual Pupils
Entrants	7	130	130
7 to 8 year group	30	109	132
Last year primary	11	30	41
First year secondary	2	14	16
Last year secondary	14	36	48
Other Periodics	2	12	14
TOTAL	66	331	381



## Defects Found at Medical Inspections

The following table gives details of all defects noted at both periodic and special examinations. All defects noted at medical inspections as requiring treatment are included, whether or not this treatment was begun before the date of inspection.

Defect or Disease.	Number of Defects.			
	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation but not treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation but not treatment
Skin ....	15	41	2	20
Eyes: (a) Vision ....	66	783	135	714
(b) Squint ....	16	93	23	49
(c) Other....	1	11	5	14
Ears: (a) Hearing ....	2	30	1	33
(b) Otitis Media ....	2	32	3	20
(c) Other....	5	15	4	27
Nose or Throat ....	58	349	89	329
Speech ....	7	44	17	53
Cervical Glands ....	2	165	5	139
Heart and Circulation ....	11	51	6	38
Lungs ....	25	144	4	93
Developmental (a) Hernia ....	2	14	3	5
(b) Other ....	—	39	—	10
Orthopaedic (a) Posture ....	4	27	2	16
(b) Flat Foot ....	51	50	25	32
(c) Other ....	25	111	26	110
Nervous System (a) Epilepsy ....	5	9	—	5
(b) Other ....	21	18	13	47
Psychological (a) Development ....	1	171	6	56
(b) Stability ....	18	46	6	19
Other ....	60	74	78	140
TOTAL ....	397	2317	453	1979

### General condition of children

All pupils at routine medical inspections are classified as to their general condition at the time of the inspection as follows:—

“A” (Good) — those better than normal.

“B” (Fair) — those normal.

“C” (Poor) — those below normal.

Details of the children inspected during the year are as follows:—

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	(A) Good		(B) Fair		(C) Poor	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
Entrants ....	1336	534	39.9	767	57.5	35	2.6
7 to 8 year group ....	1629	690	42.4	904	55.5	35	2.1
Last year primary ....	456	214	46.9	223	48.9	19	4.2
First year secondary....	290	92	31.7	188	64.8	10	3.5
Last year secondary....	633	257	40.6	364	57.5	12	1.9
Other periodics ....	146	23	15.8	123	84.2	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>4490</b>	<b>1810</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>2569</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2.5</b>

### Special Examinations

The first time in each year that a child is examined, other than at a routine periodic inspection, is regarded as a "Special Examination." Thus all children with defects which were noted in the previous year and who are seen again are classified as "Specials" at the first examination in each year, and as "Follow-up" at each subsequent examination in the same year. So far as is practicable all children with known defects are examined twice in each year.

### Other Examinations

In addition to routine, special, and follow-up examinations of children at school medical inspections a total of 481 children were examined at home or at school for various reasons. These include non-attendance at school, fitness to attend school camps, and also those examined with a view to providing special educational treatment.

### Uncleanliness

Methods of dealing with head infestation have continued as described in previous reports. Routine inspections are carried out at all schools as far as possible at least once every term. Parents of children found to be infested with vermin or nits are sent a communication from the Divisional Health Office and where possible visited by the School Nurse. The more heavily infested cases are excluded from school for a few days and if no improvement has been effected by the parents a Cleansing Notice is issued under Section 54 (2) of the Education Act, 1944. The notice informs the parents that the child must be cleansed to the satisfaction of an Authorised Officer of the Authority within 48 hours and failing that a Cleansing Order may be issued authorising the cleansing of the child by an officer appointed by the Education Authority.

In the Division, excluding Saddleworth, the total number of inspections made was 33,185 and 428 instances of infestation were found as compared with 31,425 and 625 respectively in 1953. There were 400 individual children (4.0% of the school population) found to be infested on at least one occasion, an increase of 93 as compared with the previous year.

It is instructive to compare these figures with those of 5 years ago (1949). During that year, 23,417 inspections were made, nearly 10,000 less than in 1954, and 1,189 instances of infestation, nearly 3 times the 1954 figure were found. Individual pupils infested were 541 of 6.4%



of the school population as compared with 400 or 4% in 1954. In spite of this considerable improvement, the problem of head infestation still remains a matter of serious concern. The increase this year in the number of individual children infested is very disappointing, but it is compensated to some extent by the decrease of 197 in the total number of instances of infestation found. The need for continued supervision is obvious.

In the Saddleworth Urban District the total number of inspections made was 5,232 and 79 instances of infestation were found (4.46% of the school population).

The following statistics relate to the whole Division:—

Total number of warning letters sent ... ..	347
Total number of exclusion notices served ... ..	20
Total number of home visits paid ... ..	235
Total number of individual children found to be verminous ... ..	479
Total number of Cleansing Notices issued ... ..	7
Total number of Cleansing Orders issued ... ..	2

When a child who has been cleansed by an officer of the Education Authority as a result of a Cleansing Order is found at a subsequent inspection to be re-infested the Authority may take proceedings against the parents under Section 54 (3) of the Education Act for allowing re-infestation to take place. There were no prosecutions during the year.

## Arrangements for Treatment

### School Clinics

There are no special school clinics set up in this Division but minor ailments receive attention and "booster" doses of diphtheria prophylactic are given at 16 Infant Welfare Clinics in the area. During the year a total of 974 attendances were made by school children at such clinics.

### Special Clinics

#### Ophthalmic Clinics

The arrangements detailed in my report for the year 1950 have continued, Dr. J. V. Kirkwood devoting two sessions per week to clinics in this Division. Additional sessions are arranged when necessary.

During the year 92 special clinic sessions were arranged and these were attended by 905 children who made 991 attendances. Spectacles were prescribed for 262 children, 340 were found not to require any change, and 303 did not require spectacles. The number of children who attended for re-checking of glasses newly obtained was 207.

Cases requiring orthoptic treatment may obtain this either through the hospital service or, if in the Saddleworth Area, they may attend the Orthoptic Clinic, Scottfield, Oldham, which is provided by the Oldham Education Committee. A charge of 5/- per attendance is paid by the West Riding Education Committee.

#### Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics

The special Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinic for West Riding children conducted by Mr. W. O. Lodge, M.D., F.R.C.S. has been continued at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. During the year 10 sessions were held and 117 individual children were seen, 51 being referred for operative treatment.

Children from the Saddleworth area are referred to the out-patient department at the Oldham and District General Hospital. Of the 28 cases referred 17 were recommended for operative treatment.

**Orthopædic Clinics**

The special monthly session for West Riding children has continued at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. In August, following the retirement of Mr. W. Barclay, F.R.C.S., this clinic was taken over by Mr. J. Hunter Annan, F.R.C.S. In order to cope with the number of children referred several additional sessions were necessary. At the 14 sessions held during the year 214 individual children made a total of 323 attendances. In addition 20 children from the Saddleworth area were referred to the Gainsborough Avenue Clinic, Oldham.

The conditions for which they were referred were as follows:—

Flat Foot	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Club Foot	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Knock Knee	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Hallux Valgus	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other Deformities of Toes	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Fractures	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Postural Deformities	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Other Deformities	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Congenital Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Perthes Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tubercular Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
							<hr/> 234 <hr/>

**Child Guidance Treatment**

Dr. M. M. Mac Taggart, the County Psychologist, has continued to hold clinics at Wakefield, Shipley, and Mirfield, and 29 children have received treatment. In addition regular visits have been made by her to the Royd Edge Special School, Meltham and Nortonthorpe Hostel for maladjusted boys, Scissett.

**Ultra-Violet Ray Treatment**

Facilities are now available for treatment by Ultra-Violet Radiation at Golcar, Holmfirth, Denby Dale and Uppermill. Cases for treatment are referred by School and Infant Welfare Medical Officers and by General Practitioners. During the year 124 children received courses of treatment.

**Speech Therapy**

Sessions for Speech Therapy have continued throughout the year, these being held at the Divisional Education Office, Huddersfield, the Council Offices, Honley, the Divisional Health Office, Golcar, the Mechanics Institute, Uppermill, Scholes County School, Nields County School and Kirkburton C. of E. School. Occasional sessions have also been held at Hade Edge County School.

During the year 222 sessions were held at the various centres.



The total number of attendances made by the 165 children was 1328. At the end of the year the number of children awaiting treatment was only 13, which means that now no child is kept waiting for more than 3 months. There is a great improvement in the position of 2 years ago when a wait of up to 12 months was not unusual. The service now covers the area fairly well and it is only in very rare instances that treatment cannot be given at least once a fortnight. With the better coverage of the area, speech defects are now receiving treatment much earlier with the result that shorter courses of treatment are required.

During 1954 most of the children received individual treatment, group treatment only being used where it was of special benefit and not as a means of dealing with a large number of patients as was formerly the case; but in order to provide this individual treatment attendances have had, in most instances, to be cut down to once a fortnight. In view of the time spent in clinic sessions it has been difficult to arrange school visits, in fact only 4 schools were visited apart from the 3 at which regular sessions are held. In consequence there tends to be a lack of co-operation between the schools and the clinic.

Efforts are being made to improve this as it can be a means of greatly reducing the length of treatment needed for some speech defects.

Details of the children treated are shown in the following table:—

	Speech Stammers Defects	
No. of new cases admitted for treatment during the year ... ..	12	50
No. of cases already attending for treatment from previous year ... ..	34	69
Total No. of cases treated ... ..	46	119
No. of cases discharged during year:—		
Speech normal ... ..	13	46
Unsuitable for treatment ... ..	7	7
Left School ... ..	4	8
By reason of non-attendance ... ..	—	2
No. of cases awaiting treatment at the end of year	13	
No. of visits made to schools ... ..	4	
No. of home visits ... ..	5	

### Treatment Tables

The following tables give details of treatment given to school-children under the Authority's schemes and otherwise. The treatment provided otherwise than by the Authority includes all treatment known by the Auhority to have been so provided, including treatment undertaken in school clinics by the Regional Hospital Board.

#### 1. Diseases of the Skin

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year.	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Ringworm: (i) Scalp ... ..	—	—
(ii) Body ... ..	—	—
Scabies ... ..	—	—
Impetigo ... ..	10	5
Other Skin Diseases ... ..	21	12
Total ... ..	31	17

## 2. Eye Diseases, Defective Vision, and Squint.

	Number of cases dealt with.	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
External and Other, excluding Errors of Refraction and Squint ... ..	—	32
Errors of Refraction, including Squint ...	—	895
Total ... ..	—	927
Number of Pupils for whom Spectacles were: (a) Prescribed ... ..	—	340
(b) Obtained ... ..	—	338

## 3. Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose, and Throat.

	Number of cases treated.	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Received Operative Treatment:—		
(a) For diseases of the Ear ... ..	—	6
(b) For Adenoids and chronic Tonsillitis ... ..	—	187
(c) For other Nose and Throat conditions ... ..	—	9
Received other forms of treatment ...	54	18
Total ... ..	54	220

## 4. Orthopædic and Postural Defects.

(a) Number treated as in-patients in Hospitals ... ..	5	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in Clinics or Out-Patient Departments	—	22

## 5. Child Guidance Treatment.

	Number of cases treated.	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	Elsewhere
Number of Pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics ... ..	29	1

## 6. Speech Therapy.

	Number of cases treated.	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of Pupils treated by Speech Therapist ... ..	165	4

## 7. Other Treatment Given.

	Number of cases treated.	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous Minor Ailments ...	291	152
(b) Ultra Violet Light ... ..	124	—
Total ... ..	415	152



## Dental Treatment

With the appointment of two Dental Officers early in the year, the long awaited resumption of the County Dental Services for school children and other priority classes became possible. The two new dental clinics at Slaithwaite and Honley became operative and dental inspections have been carried out at most of the schools in the Colne and Holme Valleys. Unfortunately, there is as yet no provision for the routine dental inspection and treatment of children attending schools in Denby Dale and Kirkburton. A third new dental clinic became operative at Uppermill in January, 1955.

Details of the children inspected are summarised below:—

	Honley Clinic	Slaithwaite Clinic
No. of Children inspected	2207	2211
No. of Children found to require treatment	1616	1915
No. of children treated	868	725
No. of attendances	1873	1622

## Hospital Schools

Children requiring prolonged hospital treatment are now often admitted to special "long-stay" hospitals, many of which have educational facilities which are recognised by the Ministry of Education. They are known as Hospital Schools.

The number of children away at these schools, together with the details of admissions and discharges during the year, is as follows:—

Name of Hospital School	No. of children from this Division	Diagnosis	Admitted during 1954	Discharged during 1954
Pinderfields Hospital School, Wakefield	(L.H.) 2 (C.G.)	Little's Disease Splenic Anaemia	— 22-7-54	— 14-12-54
Leasowe Children's Hospital School, Wallasey	(G.L.) 2 (D.B.)	Cerebral Palsy Perthes Disease	— 10-8-54	— 20-11-54
Heritage Craft School, Chailey	(C.P.) 2 (S.R.)	Paresis Congenital Paraplegia	— 6-1-54	— —
Adela Shaw Hospital, Kirbymoorside	(M.P.) (L.H.) 4 (S.G.) (I.E.)	Perthes Disease Osteomyelitis Perthes Disease Perthes Disease	Dec., 1953 28-5-54 21-5-54 21-5-54	28-11-54 25-9-54 — —
Fielden Long-stay Hospital, Todmorden	(J.B.C.) (C.M.B.) 5 (H.R.) (R.S.) (A.M.)	Tb. Glands Tb. Adenitis Chorea Rheumatism Nephritis	23-6-54 5-54 3-54 7-54 6-54	11-54 11-54 10-54 11-54 —

**Convalescent Home Treatment**

Arrangements are made for selected school children to be sent to Convalescent Homes at the expense of the Education Committee. The children selected are usually suffering from general debility and the need for convalescent treatment is approved by the School Medical Officer before financial responsibility is accepted. These do not include cases admitted to Convalescent Homes through the Hospital Service.

During the year 5 children were sent to the following convalescent homes:—

Craig Convalescent Home, Morecambe	...	...	...	...	2
Taxal Edge Convalescent Home, Whaley Bridge, Nr. Manchester					1
St. Joseph's Convalescent Home, Freshfield, Near Liverpool	...				1
The Girls and Boys Refuges Holiday Home, Colwyn Bay	...				1

**Infectious Diseases**

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases occurring in school children, and includes cases reported by Head Teachers but not formally notified by medical practitioners.

During the year 89 cases of measles were reported as compared with 469 in 1953. Of these cases 35 were in Meltham C. of E. Infants School, 11 in Kirkheaton C. of E. Infants, 11 in Springhead County Infants and 10 in Diggle County School.

Of the 74 cases of Scarlet Fever reported 42 were in the Colne Valley excluding Golcar.



SCHOOL	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Typhoid	Pneumonia
Golcar C. of E. ....	—	4	1	—	—	—	—
Knowl Bank County .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Knowl Bank County Infants ...	—	5	—	—	—	—	1
Linthwaite C. of E. ....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Marsden County Infants .....	—	—	6	—	—	—	1
Marsden C. of E. ....	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Marsden Secondary Modern.....	1	1	5	1	—	—	—
Nields County .....	1	3	7	—	—	—	—
Scapegoat Hill County.....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Slaithwaite C. of E. ....	—	—	8	—	—	—	—
Slaithwaite C. of E. Infants .....	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
West Slaithwaite C. of E. ....	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Wilberlee County .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Birdsedge County .....	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Clayton West County .....	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Denby Dale County .....	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Scissett Secondary Modern .....	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Skelmanthorpe County .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hade Edge County .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hepworth County .....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Holmbridge C. of E. ....	—	10	1	—	—	—	—
Hinchliffe Mill County .....	—	11	—	—	—	—	—
Holme Valley Grammar .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Holmfirth Secondary Modern ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Netherthong County .....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
New Mill County Infants .....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Scholes County .....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Highburton C. of E.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirkburton C. of E. ....	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Kirkburton Secondary Modern ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Kirkheaton C. of E. ....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Kirkheaton C. of E. Infants .....	11	8	—	—	—	—	—
Lepton County .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Shelley County .....	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Thurstonland Endowed .....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Helme C. of E. ....	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Meltham C. of E. Infants .....	35	5	3	—	—	—	—
Meltham Mills C.of E. ....	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Wilshaw C. of E. ....	—	—	—	12	—	—	—
Royd Edge Special .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Delph County Primary .....	5	18	—	1	—	—	—
Diggle County .....	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dobcross C. of E. ....	5	21	—	—	—	—	—
Greenfield County .....	1	12	3	1	—	—	3
Greenfield C. of E. ....	—	3	—	—	—	—	1
Lydgate C. of E. ....	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
Saddleworth Parochial .....	—	5	1	—	—	—	—
Scouthead C. of E. ....	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Springhead County .....	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
Springhead County Infants.....	11	4	—	1	—	—	1
Uppermill Secondary Modern ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	89	133	74	23	1	1	9

In addition the following cases of other infectious diseases were notified by various head teachers:—

Impetigo ... ..	13	Mumps ... ..	43
Jaundice ... ..	26	German Measles ...	10
Chicken Pox ... ..	350		

## Diphtheria Immunisation

The previous arrangements for diphtheria immunisation have continued, the injections being given by private practitioners and at the Welfare Centres, and special immunisation sessions have been held at various schools.

The majority of children are now immunised before entering school. This should always be the case and the importance of immunisation in infancy cannot be over-emphasised. Children protected in infancy should have booster injections when they commence school and five years later.

The following figures indicate the number of children who received primary immunisation after entering school and also the number receiving reinforcement injections:—

				Primary Immunisation	Reinforcement Injections
Colne Valley	...	...	...	71	266
Denby Dale		...	...	18	189
Holmfirth	...	...	...	7	104
Kirkburton	...	...	...	—	30
Meltham	...	...	...	9	98
Saddleworth		...	...	30	442
				<hr/> 135 <hr/>	<hr/> 1129 <hr/>

## Deaths in School Children

During the year 9 deaths were registered amongst school children (3 boys and 6 girls) aged 5 to 14 years. The following are brief details:

Sex and Age	Area	Cause of Death
1. Boy aged 7.	Colne Valley	1(a) Cardiac failure and ac. pulm. oedema. (b) Rheumatic carditis
2. Girl aged 14.	Colne Valley	1(a) Congestive cardiac failure (b) Rheumatic myocarditis
3. Girl aged 6.	Colne Valley	Shock following multiple injuries sustained as a result of being accidentally knocked down by a motor lorry on the highway.
4. Boy aged 5.	Kirkburton	1(a) Broncho-pneumonia
5. Girl aged 12.	Kirkburton	1(a) Broncho-pneumonia (b) Status Epilepticus
6. Girl aged 11.	Kirkburton	1(a) Astro cytoma Cerebri
7. Boy aged 13.	Denby Dale	Shock following fracture of Base of Skull caused by his being knocked down by a motor lorry when running across the road from the front of a stationary motor bus.
8. Girl aged 13.	Meltham	1(a) Cardiac failure (b) Ac. Rheumatic fever
9. Girl aged 10.	Saddleworth	1(a) Cachexia (b) Sarcoma Peritoneum



## School Meals Service

School meals are available at all schools in the Division. In some instances they are cooked in the individual school premises and in others are brought ready cooked from other school canteens. The meals are well cooked and varied. The number of pupils who take school meals varies much from school to school. In some almost 100% stay for the school dinner whilst at others less than half have the meal. Each school child is entitled to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a pint of milk daily free of charge. Here again many children, particularly the older ones, refuse to accept what is provided for their own benefit.

Excluding Saddleworth there were at the end of the year 285 children (2.8% of the school population) receiving meals at the expense of the Education Committee as compared with 231 (2.4%) in 1953. The number of children taking school meals was 5,795 (57.4% of the school population) compared with 5,359 (55%) in 1953. A total of 6,925 (68.6%) were having school milk compared with 6,717 (69.1%) in 1953.

In the Saddleworth Urban District there were at the end of the year 23 children (1.3% of the school population) receiving meals at the expense of the Education Committee. The number of children taking school meals was 821 (46.4% of the school population) compared with 965 (55.8%) in 1953. A total of 1,060 (59.9%) were having school milk compared with 1,090 (63.1%) in 1953.

In order to supplement the diet of infants Vitamin A. and D. capsules are offered in schools to children of 7 years and under, and orange juice is offered to children under 5 years of age.

New entrants to the staffs of school canteens are examined by the Department's Medical staff.

When a candidate is being interviewed her medical history is scrutinised and it is only when she is found to have a history of any of the following complaints that a full medical examination is carried out:—

Enteric, Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever.

Dysentery, Recurrent Diarrhoea, or any other ailment of the bowels.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Recurrent boils or septic fingers.

Discharging ears.

Other septic infections.

Eczema, Dermatitis, or other skin diseases.

Persistent cough or spitting of blood.

Experience has shown that a comprehensive medical examination is not practicable and the inconvenience caused may have deterred suitable applicants. This abbreviated procedure is found to fulfil adequately all requirements.

During the year 76 new entrants were examined and in each case a certificate to the effect that the examinee was fit to work in the School Meals Service was forwarded to the Divisional Education Officer.

## Youth Employment Service

There is close co-operation between the School Health and Youth Employment Services. The medical records of all school leavers are considered by the School Medical Officer before the pupils are interviewed by the Youth Employment Officer and types of work for which any child is, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, unsuited, are pointed out.

During the year recommendations were made that 43 children should not be employed in one or more of the following categories of work.

1. Heavy manual work	...	...	...	...	...	9
2. Work in dusty atmosphere	...	...	...	...	...	1
3. Work involving normally acute vision	...	...	...	...	...	5
4. Work involving normal colour vision	...	...	...	...	...	18
5. Work at heights	...	...	...	...	...	3
6. Work near moving machinery or moving vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	14
7. Work involving prolonged standing, much walking, or quick movement from place to place	...	...	...	...	...	1

The more seriously handicapped children are recommended to the Youth Employment Officer for inclusion in the Disabled Persons Register.

It is disappointing to report that in spite of the recommendations of the Youth Employment Officer and the School Medical Officer pupils frequently take up work in unsuitable occupations.

In connection with the Employment of Children Bye-Laws 59 children were examined as regards their suitability for employment outside school hours. Certificates were granted for employment as follows:—

Newspaper Delivery	...	...	...	...	...	55
Laundress	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shop Assistant	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cork Sorter	...	...	...	...	...	1
Labourer	...	...	...	...	...	1

### Handicapped Pupils

Early ascertainment of Handicapped Pupils is one of the most important functions of the School Health Service.

A register is maintained of all pupils who owing to some mental or physical disability require special educational treatment.

During the year 56 pupils have been examined with reference to their need of special educational treatment, and recommendations for the provision of same were made in 44 cases. During the year 49 children were removed from the register as no longer requiring special educational treatment, or because they were over school age.

At the end of the year 256 pupils were included in the register, the sub-division into the various classes being as follows:—

Maladjusted	...	...	...	...	...	4
Deaf	...	...	...	...	...	6
Delicate	...	...	...	...	...	16
Speech	...	...	...	...	...	64
Partially Sighted	...	...	...	...	...	3
Blind	...	...	...	...	...	1
Physically Handicapped	...	...	...	...	...	21
Educationally Sub-normal	...	...	...	...	...	141

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256



The increased provision by the Education Committee of residential school accommodation for Handicapped Pupils has enabled an increasing number of children to receive the special educational treatment they require. In addition arrangements have been made with the Oldham Education Authority for the admission of suitable children to their Special Day School for educationally sub-normal children at Chaucer Street, Oldham. The facilities available, however, are still inadequate, particularly for Educationally Sub-Normal pupils, 32 of whom are waiting for admission in special schools, and 88 for special treatment in ordinary schools at the end of the year.

At the beginning of the year 36 children were in attendance at Special Schools and 24 children (8 educationally sub-normal, 8 delicate, 5 physically handicapped, 2 deaf, 1 maladjusted) were admitted during the year. There were 12 discharges (6 delicate, 3 physically handicapped 1 educationally sub-normal, 1 partially sighted, 1 maladjusted) leaving a total of 48 children in attendance at Special Schools at the end of the year, the details being as follows:—

Category	No. away	Location of Special School
Blind	1	Yorkshire School for the Blind, York
Partially Sighted	3	3 at School for Partially Sighted Children, Fulwood, Preston.
Deaf	5	1 at Lawns House School, Leeds. 2 at Royal Residential School for the Deaf, Manchester. 1 at Odsal House School for the Deaf, Bradford. 1 at Yorkshire Residential School for the Deaf, Doncaster.
Delicate	9	2 at Netherside Hall School, Grassington. 6 at Ingleborough Hall School, Clapham. 1 at Strinesdale Open Air School, Oldham.
Educationally Sub-Normal	20	4 at Royd Edge, Meltham. 4 at Baliol School, Sedbergh. 4 at Springfield Special School, Horsforth. 1 at Rossington Hall Special School, Near Doncaster. 1 at Winburn School, Keighley. 1 at Knotty Ash Boarding School, Liverpool. 5 at Chaucer Street Special School, Oldham.
Physically Handicapped	10	1 at Holly Bank School, Huddersfield. 1 at Leasowe Children's Hospital School. 2 at Heritage Craft School, Chailey, Sussex. 1 at Hesley Hall School, Tickhill, Near Doncaster. 1 at National Children's Home, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. 2 at Pinderfields Hospital School, Wakefield 1 at White Ness Manor Special School, Near Broadstairs. 1 at Exhall Grange School, Coventry.

There were 8 physically handicapped children who were receiving special educational treatment in ordinary schools, where they were considered to be suitably placed. In addition one child was receiving Home Tuition.

At the end of the year 39 pupils in the following groups were awaiting placement in Special Schools or Hostels:—

Delicate	...	...	...	...	...	5
Educationally Sub-normal				...	...	32
Physically handicapped	...		...	...	...	2
						<hr/>
						39

### **Nortonthorpe Hostel for Maladjusted Boys**

Nortonthorpe Hostel, Scissett, was opened on the 26th April, 1954, as a hostel for Maladjusted Boys with accommodation for 24 children. A number of boys were transferred from Oakbank Hostel, Keighley, now closed, and new admissions brought the numbers on the register up to 14 by the end of the year.

The boys attend the local schools, being of an intelligence capable of benefiting from attendance at an ordinary school.

The purpose of the Hostel is to provide a stable and pleasant background for these socially insecure children and so enable them to mature and eventually to return to their own homes without breaking down.

### **Home Tuition**

Under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944, education otherwise than at school may be provided for children who by reason of extraordinary circumstances are unable to attend a suitable school for the purpose of receiving primary or secondary education. This education is provided for the following classes of handicapped children.

- 1 Children in hospitals where there are not ordinarily enough children to warrant the establishment of a hospital special school.
- 2 Children who are educable but whose condition is such that it is inadvisable to send them to school.
- 3 Children awaiting a vacancy at a special school.

In order to advise whether home tuition is required such cases are examined by the School Medical Officer. At the end of the year one child was receiving home tuition.

### **Reports to the Local Health Authority: Education Act, 1944, Section 57**

During the year 9 children were reported to the Local Health Authority as "ineducable" under Section 57(3). In addition 19 children were notified to the local Health Authority under Section 57(5) as requiring care and supervision after leaving school.

### **Medical Examination of Teachers and Entrants for Courses of Training**

Since April 1st, 1952, it has been the duty of the School Medical Officer of the area in which they reside to examine candidates applying for entry to training colleges, etc., for the purpose of satisfying the college authorities of their fitness to follow a course of teacher training.



During the year 38 candidates (7 males, 31 females) were examined and a report on Form 4 R.T.C. completed and forwarded to the appropriate college authority. In the majority of cases an X-ray examination of the chest was undertaken through the Miniature Mass Radiography Service.

Entrants to the Teaching Profession completing an approved course of training are examined by the college medical officer but in other cases the examination is now undertaken by the School Medical Officer of the employing authority.

During the year 14 reports on Form 28 R.Q. were forwarded to the Ministry of Education.

**Liaison with Hospitals and General Practitioners**

It is pleasing to report that much more information is now being obtained from the hospital service regarding school children who receive treatment in hospital. Recommendations for special educational treatment for handicapped children are also made by the Hospital Consultants.

Under an agreement with the British Medical Association and the Society of Medical Officers of Health, children found at school suffering from defects requiring specialist advice or treatment are notified in the first instance to the family practitioner before an appointment at the Consultant's Clinic is arranged. By this arrangement the family practitioner is kept informed of defects found amongst his patients and copies of the Consultant's reports are sent to him.

**Sanitary Conditions of School Premises**

On the whole the schools in the Division are kept in a good state of repair but owing to their age some of them are lacking in the provision of adequate washing facilities and satisfactory sanitary conveniences. Many improvements have been made in recent years and others will be carried out as soon as practicable.

**HEALTH VISITING**

The Health Visiting staff has remained fairly constant throughout the year. At the commencement of the year a Superintendent Health Visitor, 15 Health Visitors (one part-time) and two assistant Health Visitors were engaged in the Division. One assistant resigned in August and the other one only carried out very occasional duties. Three Health Visitors commenced duties in July after completing their training in Leeds but three resigned, one to take up full time tuberculosis work in the Huddersfield County Borough, one to take up residence in London and one to take up duties under the Devonshire County Council.

Urban District	Authorised Establishment	Staff at 31-12-54
Superintendent Health Visitor ... ..	1	1
Colne Valley ... ..	4	4
Denby Dale ... ..	2	1½
Holmfirth ... ..	4	3
Kirkburton ... ..	3	3½*
Meltham ... ..	1	1
Saddleworth ... ..	4	2
Assistant Health Visitors ... ..	—	1†
Tuberculosis Visitors ... ..	1	—
	20	17

\* Includes 1 part-time.

† Part-time.



The establishment provides for one full-time Tuberculosis Visitor, but this work is being satisfactorily carried out by the general Health Visitor. The Superintendent Health Visitor attended a one week's course in London on Tuberculosis.

The pre-school examinations of the 3 year old toddlers have continued and have become increasingly popular. Separate sessions for these examinations are now held periodically at the Golcar, Lepton, Linthwaite, Marsden, Meltham and Slaithwaite Clinics, whilst at Holmfirth and New Mill two or three toddlers are invited each week to the normal Infant Welfare session.

Relaxation classes are now held in several clinics throughout the Division (see page 12a) and with one exception the Health Visitor also attends to give instruction to the mother in general management and diet. These classes are quiet well attended and mothers have expressed their appreciation of the benefit they have received.

Student Health Visitors were received from Leeds for the last term of their training but because of the very small number of nurses presenting themselves now for the Health Visitors training, no students were received during the first term of the current course which commenced in September, 1954.

Students were also received from Manchester during the first and last quarters of the year.

The Health Visitors also carry out school-nursing and a large proportion of their time is spent in this field which includes the home-visiting of school children where necessary. Where the head-teachers have requested it and it has been possible to provide staff, the Health Visitors have attended the schools, to give talks on various health matters and one Health Visitor attends a Secondary Modern School weekly to give courses in general mothercraft.

It can be seen from the following summary of visits that the Health Visitor spends a considerable amount of time with the aged. This is an important branch of their work as the old people are frequently in need of help and advice. In this connection appreciation of the work of the Old People's Welfare Committees is expressed, the secretaries of the various committees being very co-operative and helpful with the Visitors. The Superintendent attends the Central Committee of the Colne Valley Old People's Welfare.

The following table shows particulars of the visits made by Health Visitors during the year.

District	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children Between Ages		Other Cases	Total Visits
	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	1—2	2—5	Total Visits	
Colne Valley	20	54	308	3134	1458	2317	1376	8339
Denby Dale	9	10	125	669	292	495	477	1943
Holmfirth	9	41	210	1664	1105	1152	1180	5142
Kirkburton	50	120	194	1915	1205	1838	1235	6313
Meltham	38	60	74	454	150	296	619	1579
Saddleworth	57	90	159	1708	1066	1135	1969	5968
Division 20	183	375	1070	9544	5276	7233	6856	29284



In addition 1,297 home visits were paid to school children in connection with follow-up work from routine medical inspections, hygiene inspections, handicapped pupils, etc.

The visits shown in the above table include 7,348 of a non-routine nature, an analysis of which is as follows:—

Premature Babies	...	...	...	...	...	44
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	11
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Other Visits	...	...	...	...	...	292
Special Visits (not homes)	...	...	...	...	...	600
						—
						7348
						—

## HOME NURSING

At the commencement of the year 12 home nurses, 5 nurse/midwives, and 2 relief nurse-midwives were engaged in the Division. During the year 2 home nurses, and one relief nurse-midwife resigned their appointments whilst one home nurse, 2 nurse-midwives and 2 relief nurse-midwives were appointed.

The establishment of home nurses approved by the Ministry of Health under the National Health Service Act and the staff position at the end of the year are as follows:—

Urban District	Authorised Establishment	Staff at 31st Dec., 1954	
		Home Nurses	Nurse-Midwives
Colne Valley	3	3	1
Denby Dale	2	2	2
Holmfirth	2	3	—
Kirkburton	3	1	2
Meltham	1	—	1
Saddleworth	3	2	1
Relief	1	—	3
Division 20	15	11	10

Particulars of the work done in the various districts by the home nurses and nurse-midwives are shown in the following table. The amount of work done by the home nurses still varies considerably and further readjustment of districts is required as soon as this can be arranged.

	Home Nursing			Midwifery	
	Transfers	New Patients	Visits Paid	Confinements	Visits Paid
<b>COLNE VALLEY URBAN DISTRICT</b>					
Golcar ....	26	206	3,494	5	55
Marsden and Slaithwaite ....	45	307	4,784	17	323
Linthwaite ....	44	207	4,085	5	69
	115	720	12,363	27	447
<b>DENBY DALE URBAN DISTRICT</b>					
Denby, Cumberworth and Clayton West ....	21	193	3,526	24	685
Emley, Skelmanthorpe and Scissett ....	25	113	3,543	27	837
	46	306	7,069	51	1,522
<b>HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT....</b>					
Holmfirth ....	35	131	2,819	—	—
New Mill ....	20	91	2,403	—	—
Honley ....	26	101	2,162	—	—
	81	323	7,384	—	—
<b>KIRKBURTON URBAN DISTRICT</b>					
Kirkheaton, Lepton & Flockton	27	279	4,021	4	138
Kirkburton ....	14	88	2,691	18	533
Shelley and Shepley ....	23	62	3,422	10	472
	64	429	10,134	32	1143
<b>MELTHAM URBAN DISTRICT</b>					
Meltham ....	5	76	2,291	14	463
<b>SADDLEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT</b>					
Delph, Dobcross, Denshaw	19	112	3,583	4	20
Springhead, Scouthead, Lydgate, Austerlands, Grotton	14	64	2,331	16	482
Greenfield, Diggle, Grasscroft, Uppermill ...	27	69	2,154	5	24
	60	245	8,068	25	526
<b>Total for Division ....</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>2099</b>	<b>47,309</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>4,101</b>

### Cases Treated

As in previous years, the types and duration of cases treated during the year have been analysed. There is considerable variation between the different districts. In some, the nurse's time is largely devoted to attendance on the chronic sick, whilst in other districts many acute medical and post-operative surgical cases receive attention. Increased use is also being made of home nurses by general practitioners for the administration of drugs by injection, and particularly of penicillin and streptomycin.

At Emley it has been customary for some time past for the nurse to hold morning and evening dressing sessions at her home. This has continued and during the year patients suffering mainly from minor injuries have made 271 attendances.

### Cases Discharged

Of the 1710 cases the nurses ceased to attend during the year, 1228 were discharged as recovered, 181 were transferred to hospital, and 301 died.

The tables given overleaf show the duration of treatment and the number of visits paid to patients in each group.



Patients under Treatment	Patients.		
	Recovered	Transferred	Died
Less than 1 week	487	57	98
1- 2 weeks	478	41	87
2- 4 weeks	165	39	61
4-13 weeks	90	36	42
3- 6 months	8	4	10
Over 6 months	—	4	3
TOTAL	1 228	181	301

Number of Visits Paid	To Patients Who		
	Recovered	Transferred	Died
3 or less	121	29	42
4- 7	448	39	72
8-15	421	43	75
16-35	153	28	61
31-50	48	13	26
51-75	21	16	8
76-100	10	6	6
Over 100	6	7	11
TOTAL	1,228	181	301

### Types of Cases Attended

The cases attended and the total visits paid have, as last year, been analysed.

Type of Case	Transferred	New Cases	Visits Paid
Infectious	—	18	172
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	30	770
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	22	416
Influenza	—	27	239
Pneumonia	3	84	945
Bronchitis	5	88	1887
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	32	412
Cancer of Uterus	1	21	294
Cancer of Stomach and Intestines	5	38	938
Cancer of Breast	2	27	908
Cancer of Other Sites	5	48	1,143
Diabetes	6	40	1,934
Cerebral Haemorrhage	20	100	3,238
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	50	69	5,647
Post-Operative Dressings	7	126	2,180
Injuries	5	69	1,160
Burns and Scalds	5	62	839
Septic Conditions (Boils, Abscesses Carbuncles)	7	251	2,722
Uterine Prolapse	76	42	1,100
Other Gynaecological Cases	—	20	178
Male Genito-urinary Conditions	4	25	950
Rheumatic and Arthritic Conditions	23	31	2,060
Ear and Eye Conditions	4	121	1,249
Varicose Ulcers	7	48	1,345
Impetigo	—	21	182
Other Skin Diseases	—	26	282
Chronic Diseases of Nervous System	7	20	161
Mastitis	—	34	284
Acute Abdominal Conditions	1	30	365
Constipation	3	58	557
Thrombosis	6	61	1,824
Infantile Disorders	1	21	217
Circumcision	—	44	342
Senility	52	126	5,370
Other Conditions	66	219	4,999
TOTAL	381	2,099	47,309

It will be seen that Septic Conditions have again provided the largest number of new cases (251). Cancer all sites (134) was the next most frequent, followed by Post-Operative dressings (126), Senility (126), Ear and Eye Conditions (121) and Cerebral Haemorrhage (100).

New cases of Bronchitis numbered 88 and those of Pneumonia 84.

Patients suffering from the following conditions received the largest number of visits:—

Diseases of Heart and Circulation	...	...	5,647 visits
Senility	...	...	5,370 „
Cancer (all sites)	...	...	3,283 „
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	3,238 „
Septic Conditions	...	...	2,722 „
Post Operative Dressings	...	...	2,180 „
Rheumatic and Arthritic Conditions	...	...	2,060 „

### Travelling Facilities for Home Nurses and Midwives

No serious difficulties have been experienced during the year with regard to transport and only one midwife and two nurse-midwives were dependent on public transport as a means of conveyance at the end of the year, when the position was as follows:—

			Using County Cars	Using Private Cars	Dependent on Public Transport
Home Nurses	...	...	7	4	—
Nurse/Midwives	...	...	4	4	2
Midwives	...	...	—	4	1
			11	12	3

One additional County Car was allotted for use in the Division and one of the older cars was replaced.

### THE HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service is provided under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Section 29 of the Act stipulates the class of case for which provision of a home help can be made. These are as follows:—

- (a) Ill.

(b) Lying-in.

(c) An Expectant Mother.

(d) Mentally Defective.
- (e) Aged.

(f) A Child not over compulsory School age.

Before a home help can be provided a form of application must be signed by the head of the household. If there are any adults in the house other than the householder and wife, and they are likely to get some benefit from the services of the home help, they also are expected to sign an application form. A medical certificate stating the condition from which the patient is suffering and that a home help is required must be submitted with all applications under Class (a) Ill. Usually a home help can be provided only when the ill person is in the house. If the ill person is removed to hospital then a home help can be provided only if there is need for a home help under one of the other classes, e.g., children not over school age in the house.



In the case of the aged there is no need for the person to be ill in order to qualify for the provision of a home help. The extent of the need depends on the physical capacity of the aged person and the other persons in the household. A home help assisting an aged person can undertake domestic work or household management only and must not be used as a sitter-in. A home help cannot be provided merely because a householder offers to pay full cost; each case is treated strictly on its merits.

Briefly, a home help may be allocated to a household where there is sickness sufficient to require medical or nursing care; she cannot attend where a sick person is removed to hospital unless there is a child under school leaving age at home; she can attend to the domestic duties of the aged, mentally defective, and expectant of child, without stipulation as to sickness. The aged should generally be over 60 years of age, the mentally defective such as have been reported to the Health Committee, and those expectant of child would normally have some disability such as fatigue or varicose veins necessitating rest. She should as far as reasonably possible give her time to domestic duties or to family or household management (as appropriate to the case) and not undertake the duties of a "sitter-in."

Every applicant for a home help must sign an undertaking either to pay the full cost of the home help supplied or to give a statement of his income and capital and agree to pay the assessed charge according to the County Council scale. In assessing the charge the income of all persons assisted is taken into account. The actual assessment is carried out in the Divisional Welfare Office.

The authorised establishment of home helps for this Division was increased during the year from 27 to 30 giving an average establishment for the year of  $29\frac{1}{4}$ . In terms of full-time home helps the number employed throughout the year has averaged 24.27.

Geographical and other difficulties encountered have meant that the time which could be devoted to any particular case has sometimes been less than was actually required but every effort has been made to allocate the services available where they were most urgently needed.

During the year 396 cases were provided with home helps as compared with 388 in the previous year. The duration of assistance provided was as follows.

No. of cases provided with the services of a Home Help for:—					
Under 1 Month	1—3 Months	3—6 Months	6—9 Months	Over 9 Months	Total
126	76	39	35	120	396

Details of the assistance given to the 396 patients in the various categories is shown in the following table.

Category	Colne Valley		Denby Dale		Holmfirth		Kirkburton		Meltham		Saddleworth		Total	
	No. of Patients	Av. No. of hours per Patient	No. of Patients	Av. No. of hours per Patient	No. of Patients	Av. No. of hours per Patient	No. of Patients	Av. No. of hours per Patient	No. of Patients	Av. No. of hours per Patient	No. of Patients	Av. No. of hours per Patient	No. of Patients	Av. No. of hours per Patient
Maternity (including Expectant Mothers) ...	23	50.56	9	64.25	11	58.55	5	49.80	4	46.25	12	73.66	64	57.86
Tuberculosis ...	2	30.00	—	—	1	74.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	45.00
Chronic Sick ... (including aged and infirm) ...	54	148.01	22	153.25	67	136.01	35	161.39	26	179.38	63	194.51	267	161.21
Others ...	20	180.31	4	92.92	11	125.36	6	136.66	4	65.06	17	130.52	62	139.24
Total ...	99	129.52	35	123.39	90	124.55	46	145.60	34	150.27	92	166.92	396	140.19



## National Assistance Acts, 1948 - 1951

Under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, a local authority may take action to secure removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. The action taken under this section during the year was as follows:—

### Denby Dale U.D.

On the 19th June, 1954 a man suffering from grave chronic disease who was unable to devote to himself, and was not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention was removed under the Amendment Act, 1951, to Deanhouse Hospital, Thongsbridge, for a period not exceeding three weeks. It was intended to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an extension of the Order, but the man died on 23rd June, 1954.

Action was also considered in the case of a second male in similar circumstances but before an Order could be made, he was admitted to Deanhouse Hospital as a voluntary patient.

### Holmfirth U.D.

Action was considered in the case of an aged man living in insanitary conditions but before an Order could be made he was admitted to Deanhouse Hospital as a voluntary patient.

## Ambulance Service

During the year close co-operation has been maintained with the Superintendent of the Huddersfield Depot and any difficulties of a medical nature arising have been discussed.

The service has worked smoothly throughout the year and complaints have been negligible.

During the year the ambulances from the Huddersfield Depot made 4,139 journeys involving 122,336 miles, and carried 16,082 patients 2,563 of these being stretcher patients. Included in the 16,082 patients carried were 13,801 hospital out-patients. Particulars of the cases carried are given below:—

Accident	...	...	...	...	...	342
Urgent	...	...	...	...	...	422
Mental	...	...	...	...	...	39
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	137
Infectious	...	...	...	...	...	32
General	...	...	...	...	...	2,029
Out-Patients	...	...	...	...	...	13,801
						<hr/> 16,802 <hr/>

In the Saddleworth Area, the Oldham County Borough Ambulance Service, based at the Central Depot, Council Street, Oldham, provided full ambulance cover for the whole of the Urban District of Saddleworth. All statutory obligations placed on the West Riding County Council by virtue of the National Health Service Act so far as it concerns ambulance work, are carried out by this Service.

For mental cases, County Council ambulances are generally used and the authorised officer comes from Huddersfield with the ambulance he has arranged for the patient's transfer to hospital.

During the year ambulances of the Oldham Service made 740 journeys involving 11,582 miles and carried 1,305 patients and in addition 856 journeys involving 22,767 miles were made by Sitting Case Cars on behalf of 2,350 patients. Of the patients carried 139 were classed as accident cases, 163 emergency cases and 3,353 others.

## **CHILDREN'S HOMES**

### **Medical Arrangements**

The care and treatment of children accommodated in The Leas Children's Homes, Scholes, Holmfirth, during times of illness is delegated to a private practitioner with whom the children are registered under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The Divisional Medical Officer has been made responsible for the preventive medical services of the local authority so far as the children are concerned. Each child is examined by a medical officer of the local authority on admission and at 6 monthly intervals. Advice is given regarding precautions to be taken against the spread of infectious diseases, hours of rest and sleep, and the general supervision of health, hygiene and dietary of the children.

Cases of difficulty in behaviour, boarding out, etc., are discussed with the Superintendent of the Homes and with the Officers of the Children's Department. Visits are also made from time to time by the County Psychologist.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

The mental health work in the Division consists mainly of the supervision of defectives under voluntary and statutory supervision and under guardianship orders, and in the provision of reports about the home conditions of defectives, for the information of Hospital Management Committees, when applications for leave of absence or renewal of licence are under consideration. Training in handicrafts of various sorts is also given to suitable patients.

The work is done mainly by the Mental Health Social Worker and by the Home Teacher.

Very little has been done regarding the provision of personal histories and background information relating to patients admitted to and discharged from Mental Hospitals, as this work in the Division is largely done by the Social Worker attached to the local Mental Hospital.

There is great difficulty in securing institutional accommodation for those patients whose mental, physical or social conditions make this desirable. As the Local Health Authority no longer provides residential accommodation all that can be done is to make recommendations to the Regional Hospital Board.

During the year 9 children were reported by the Local Education Authority under Section 57(3) as ineducable and 19 under Section 57(5) as requiring supervision after leaving school — all were placed under statutory supervision. Three adults and one child were admitted to institutions during the year and in addition 6 children were accepted for temporary short stay vacancies.



At the end of the year the number of patients under supervision was as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
Under Guardianship... ..	—	1	1
Under Statutory Supervision ...	65	59	124
On Licence from Institutions ...	—	3	3
Under Voluntary Supervision and Observation ... ..	6	4	10

Of these patients 13 were in need of institutional care at the end of the year as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
In urgent need ... ..	3	1	4
Not in urgent need ... ..	6	3	9
Total	9	4	13

The great need of defectives resident at home is facilities for occupational training either at occupation centres or in small groups or individually at home. The siting of occupation centres for the larger scattered Divisions such as No. 20 is very difficult. To serve the whole of this Division the centre would have to be in Huddersfield, but to gather together all the patients from the outlying areas would require the provision of special transport to an extent impracticable at the present time.

Through the kind co-operation of the Huddersfield and Oldham County Borough Authorities a few vacancies have been made available for West Riding patients and at the end of the year 4 patients were in attendance at the Scarleigh Occupation Centre, Milnsbridge and 4 at the Oldham Occupation Centre. In addition, one patient who had been attending the Oldham Occupation Centre was transferred to the newly opened Industrial Centre in Oldham and was still in attendance there at the end of the year.

The training of smaller groups at the Centres at Linthwaite, Skelmanthorpe and Uppermill has continued under the supervision of Miss E. Ball, the Home Teacher, the number of patients who attended and the number of attendances made being as follows:—

Centre	No. of Sessions	No. of Patients	No. of Attendances	Average No. of Attendances per Session
Linthwaite ...	186	15	959	5.16
Skelmanthorpe	147	15	943	6.41
Uppermill ...	43	3	88	2.05
Total ... ..	376	33	1990	5.29

The social activities during the year have included a Sports Day in July at the Linthwaite Centre, Christmas parties at the Linthwaite and Skelmanthorpe Centres and a visit to the pantomime. All were well attended by patients and their parents from all parts of the Division and were very much appreciated.

### **Medical Examination for Superannuation Purposes**

New entrants to the County Service are required to undergo a medical examination to see if they are suitable for admission to the Superannuation Scheme, and these examinations have continued to be carried out by the Department's medical staff. During the year 52 such examinations (30 male, 22 female) were carried out.

In addition 2 male members of the County staff who had been off duty through sickness for a considerable period, were examined to ascertain whether or not they were incapable of discharging with efficiency the duties of their employment by reason of permanent ill-health.



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